

Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar

**Introduction - Five Famous Sastha Temples of Kerala
(Combined)**



Kulathupuzha



Aryankavu



Kanthamala



Achankovil Sabarimala



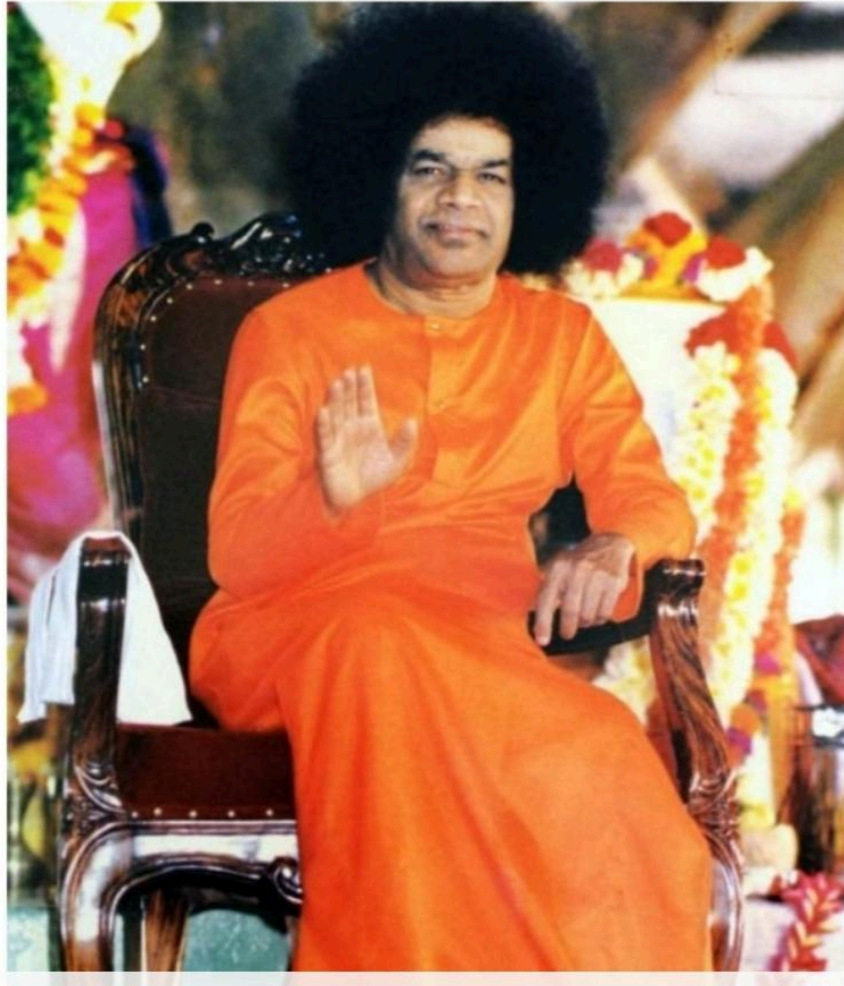
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DEDICATION

**This work is lovingly dedicated at the lotus feet of:
Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba**



**There is only ONE caste -The Caste of Humanity
There is only ONE religion –The Religion of Love
There is only ONE language –The Language of the Heart
There is only ONE God –He is Omnipresent**

.....Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba

PREFACE

This compilation is on **"Five Famous Sastha Temples of Kerala (Combined))"**

In this free ebook, following free ebooks, which were circulated earlier, are combined into a single free ebook for easy reference.

1. **"Kulathupuzha Sastha Temple"**
2. **"Aryankavu Sastha Temple"**
3. **"Achankovil Sastha Temple"**
4. **"Sabarimala Sastha Temple"**
5. **"Kanthamala Sastha Temple"**

Note: Of the temples mentioned above, Kanthamala Temple is said to be located deep in the forest and not accessible and no data on it.

YouTube videos in each ebook: Here we have a good info on these Temples by well known artistes, Scholars and Pandits.

Acknowledgements:

Many of my friends and relatives have actively encouraged me in my attempt to compile this free ebook. I sincerely thank them for their support.

My wife Kala has always encouraged and supported me in all my literary works, sacrificing much of her time. I express my deep appreciation to her.

I have drawn heavily from many references, YouTube and other websites as mentioned in the text.

Finally, I express my immense gratitude to Sri Sathya Sai Baba for His Grace and blessings, prompting me to initiate, continue and complete this work.

Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar,
March 13, 2025
Email: tmuliya@rediffmail.com

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Entries on this page are hyperlinks. So, one can quickly navigate to the desired place.

- 1. "Kulathupuzha Sastha Temple"**
- 2. "Aryankavu Sastha Temple"**
- 3. "Achankovil Sastha Temple"**
- 4. "Sabarimala Sastha Temple"**
- 5. "Kanthamala Sastha Temple"**

Note that the above entries are hyperlinks.

Pressing on the desired name takes you to that particular ebook, which has its own CONTENTS page with hyperlinks etc.

In each ebook, do see the links under "YouTube Videos" which will give you good info on these Temples by well known artistes, Scholars and Pandits.

Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar

**Sri Kulathupuzha Bala Sastha Temple, Kollam,
Kerala, India**



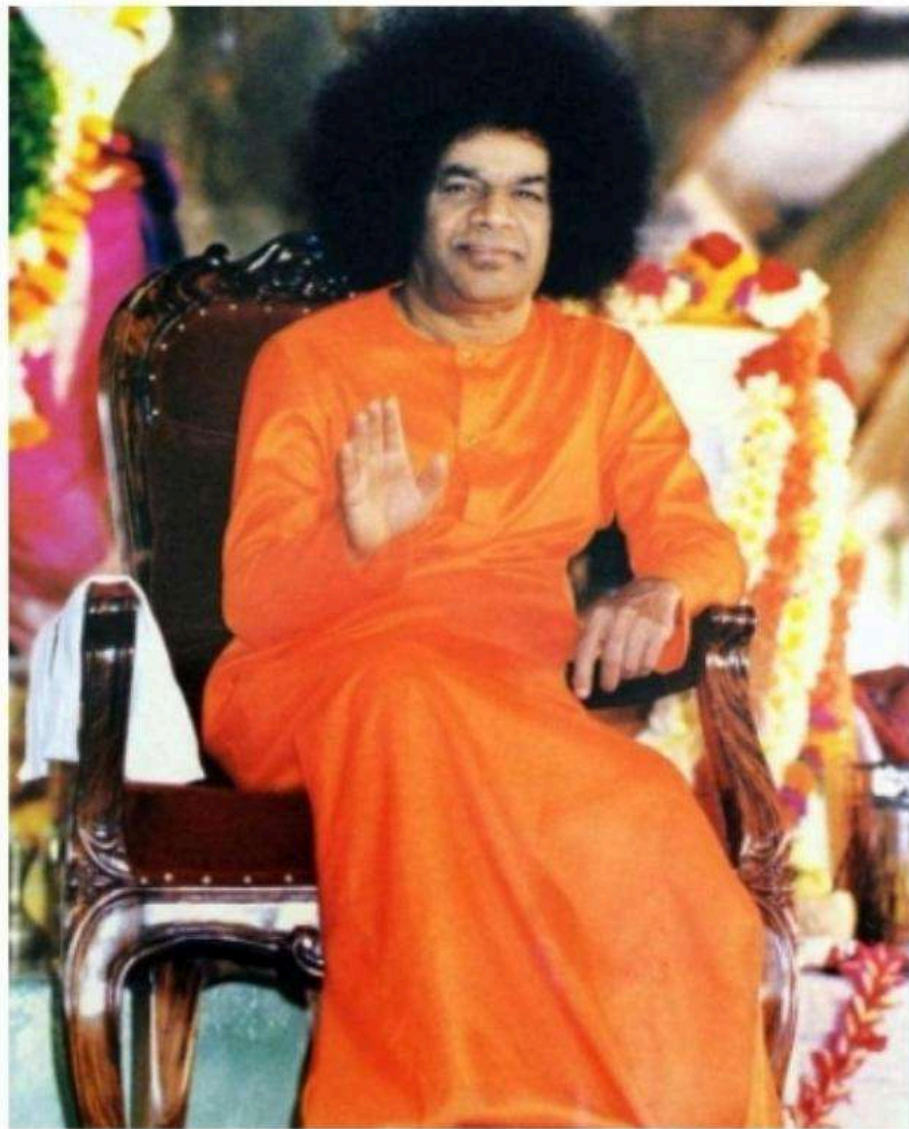
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PREFACE



This free ebook gives briefly info about: “ Sri **Kulathupuzha Bala Sastha Temple, Kollam, Kerala, India**”.

Kulathupuzha Sastha Temple is dedicated to Bala (child) Sasta, located in Kulathupuzha in the Kollam district of Kerala. It is one of the five important Sastha temples in Kerala. The idol there is believed to have been installed by Parashurama and is made up of eight pieces of stone.^[1] The temple is known for the *Meenoottu* (fish feeding) offering.

Details of Temple History, legends and significance, architecture, Timings, festivals, deities, poojas and rituals, their charges, special poojas and their charges, address, map, phone number and how to reach there, significance, where to stay - accommodation, nearby temples and other attractions, contact info, info for devotees, facilities, FAQs, do's and don'ts for devotees, tips for devotees, donation info, similar places, nearby places, comments by visitors..etc are given.

Links to YouTube Videos give videos relating to the temple, its history, legends, festivals, Temple travel vlogs, temple tour,.....etc.

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Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar,
March 10, 2025
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Ref: Wikipedia

Sri Kulathupuzha Bala Sastha Temple



Kulathupuzha Sastha Temple is a Hindu temple dedicated to Shasta, located in Kulathupuzha in the Kollam district of Kerala, India. It is one of the five important Sastha temples in Kerala, the others being Aryankavu, Achankovil, Sabarimala and Kanthamala.^[1] The idol there is believed to have been installed by Parashurama and is made up of eight pieces of stone.^[1] The temple is known for the *Meenoottu* (fish feeding) offering.^[2] The temple is governed by the Travancore Devaswom Board.

Location

The temple is located in Kulathupuzha in the tehsil of Punalur in Kollam district. It is situated about 64 km (40 mi) from Kollam on the banks of the Kulathupuzha River, a tributary of the Kallada River.^{[1][4]}

Legend

According to the legend, the Kulathupuzha temple is one of the five Sastha temples founded by Parashurama.^[5] It is also believed that Sastha allowed a *Jala Kanyaka* (mermaid), who had a lust for him, to live in the temple pond in the form of a fish.^[6] A common belief is that the temple was founded by the Raja of Pandalam,^[7] but the idol of Sastha was founded by a Brahmin from Kottarakkara. Earlier, the temple was in the possession of the king of Kottarakkara. It was later handed over to the Travancore Devaswom Board. The tantric rights of the temple are held by the *Kokkalathu Mutt*.

Deities

The principal deity of the temple is Shasta. He is in the form of *Balasastha* (child form) and is commonly known as *Kulathupuzha Balakan*.^[1] There is a popular song titled "Kulathupuzhayile Balakane" praising the deity of the temple. The deity here is in a fierce

mood (*ugramūrti*) as well as in an auspicious mood (*mangalapradāyakan*). Shiva, Yakshi, Vishnu, Ganesha, Boothathan, Nāga, and Karuppu Sami are the subordinate deities.

Offerings

The temple pond preserves a number of fish, as they are considered to be the favorites of Shasta. Devotees offer *Meenoottu* (fish feeding) for healing the warts in the skin.^[10] The fish are known as *Thirumakkal* (divine children).^[6] Most of them belong to the species Tor khudree and Hypselobarbus thomassi, which are at risk of extinction.^[11] Fishing is also strictly prohibited here.

Ref: ChatGPT - AI

Sri Kulathupuzha Bala Sastha Temple

Sri Kulathupuzha Bala Sastha Temple, Kollam, Kerala

Sri Kulathupuzha Bala Sastha Temple is one of the Pancha Sastha Temples, where Lord Ayyappa is worshipped in the form of a child (Bala Sastha). It is a sacred pilgrimage site located on the banks of the Kulathupuzha River, surrounded by dense forests.

1. Temple Location & Contact Details

Address:

Sri Kulathupuzha Bala Sastha Temple,
Kulathupuzha, Kollam District, Kerala – 691310

 **Temple Office Contact:** +91 475 231 5825

2. How to Reach Kulathupuzha Temple?

By Road: Well-connected by buses and taxis from Kollam (64 km), Trivandrum (70 km), and Punalur (23 km).

By Train: Nearest railway stations are Kottarakara (35 km) and Punalur (23 km).

By Air: Nearest airport is Trivandrum International Airport (72 km).

3. Temple History & Legends

Believed to be installed by Lord Parasurama, one of the five important Sastha temples in Kerala.

According to legend, a cowherd found an idol of Bala Sastha (child form of Ayyappa) near the Kulathupuzha River, leading to the temple's construction.

Famous for its fish sanctuary, where the temple's sacred fish (considered divine messengers) are fed by devotees.

4. Architecture & Special Features

Traditional Kerala-style temple, surrounded by thick forests and the Kulathupuzha River.

The idol of Lord Bala Sastha is small but powerful, depicting Lord Ayyappa in childhood form.

The temple has a sanctum (Sreekovil), Namaskara Mandapam, and Balikkalpura.

5. Main Deity & Other Deities

Main Deity: Lord Bala Sastha (Child Ayyappa).

Other Deities: Lord Ganapathi, Goddess Parvati, Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu, Lord Brahma

6. Daily Poojas & Rituals

The temple follows traditional Kerala Tantric rituals.

Daily Worship Schedule:

Nirmalyam – Early morning ritual before opening.

Abhishekam (Holy Bathing Ceremony) – Water, milk, and sandalwood paste are used for bathing the deity.

Usha Pooja (Morning Pooja) – First major worship of the day.

Pantheeradi Pooja – Mid-morning worship at an auspicious time.

Ucha Pooja (Noon Pooja) – Special offerings made to Bala Sastha.

Deeparadhana (Evening Lamp Worship) – The temple glows with oil lamps.

Athazha Pooja (Night Pooja) – The final worship before closing the temple.

7. Special Poojas & Rituals

- Neyyabhishekam (Ghee Offering) – A special offering to Bala Sastha.
- Ganapathi Homam – Ritual for removing obstacles and bringing success.
- Mrityunjaya Homam – Special prayer for health and longevity.
- Thulabharam – Devotees offer items like jaggery, bananas, or coins equal to their body weight.
- Sahasranama Archana – Recital of 1,000 names of Lord Ayyappa with flower offerings.

8. Major Festivals at Kulathupuzha Temple

- Vishnu Mahotsavam (April-May) – The biggest annual festival lasting 10 days.
- Mandala Pooja (November-December) – Special poojas for Sabarimala Pilgrims.
- Makaravilakku (January) – Celebrated with rituals and processions.
- Vishu (April 14th) – New Year celebration with Vishukkani Darshanam.

9. Specialty of Kulathupuzha Temple

- The only temple where Lord Ayyappa is worshipped in Bala (child) form.
- Sacred fish in the Kulathupuzha River are considered divine messengers.
- Pilgrims en route to Sabarimala stop here to seek blessings.
- Temple location inside a dense forest provides a peaceful, divine atmosphere.

10. Facilities for Devotees

- ✓ Annadanam (Free Lunch for Devotees)
- ✓ Drinking Water and Restrooms

- ✓ Shops Selling Pooja Items & Prasadam
- ✓ Parking Facilities

11. Accommodation Near Kulathupuzha Temple

The temple does not provide its own accommodation, but nearby options include:

Nearby Hotels & Lodges

1. KTDC Tamarind, Punalur (23 km) – Budget-friendly
2. Thenmala Ecotourism Cottages (20 km) – Mid-range
3. Saaral Resort, Tenkasi (45 km) – ★★★
4. Hotel Green Royale, Thenmala (22 km) – Comfortable lodging

12. Do's & Don'ts for Devotees

Do's:

- ✓ Wear traditional attire (Men: Dhoti, Women: Saree/Churidar).
- ✓ Maintain silence and discipline inside the temple.
- ✓ Follow temple timings for darshan and poojas.

Don'ts:

- ✗ Non-Hindus may not be allowed inside the inner sanctum.
- ✗ Avoid leather items, footwear, and mobile photography inside the temple.
- ✗ Do not bring outside food into the temple premises.

13. Nearby Temples

Aryankavu Sastha Temple (30 km) – Another important Pancha Sastha Temple.

Achankovil Dharmasastha Temple (75 km) – Famous for Kalabham prasadam.

Sabarimala Ayyappa Temple (120 km) – Most important Ayyappa temple.

14. Visitor Reviews & Comments

★ "A peaceful and divine place in the middle of nature. Lord Bala Sastha's presence is truly special." – Arun, Trivandrum

★ "The temple fish are considered sacred. Feeding them is believed to bring blessings." – Priya, Kollam

★ "A must-visit for Ayyappa devotees. The temple's location inside the forest adds to its spiritual energy." – Ramesh, Bangalore

15. Online Seva Booking & Donation Methods

Is Online Seva Booking Available?

Currently, online seva booking is NOT available. You must visit the temple office to book rituals.

How to Make a Donation?

1. Direct Bank Transfer (NEFT/RTGS)

The temple's official bank details are not publicly available.

Call the temple office (+91 475 231 5825) to get the latest details.

2. UPI / QR Code Donations

Some Kerala temples provide Google Pay, PhonePe, or Paytm UPI QR codes at the donation counter.

You may find the QR code displayed at the temple office.

3. Donation at the Temple Office

You can donate cash or cheque at the temple counter.

An official receipt will be provided for your contribution.

4. Postal Money Order / Demand Draft

Some temples accept DDs/Money Orders in favor of the temple trust.

Confirm the payee name and postal details by calling the temple office.

Ref: sabarimala.kerala.gov.in

Kulathupuzha Sastha Temple



Kulathupuzha Sastha Temple is located on the banks of Kulathupuzha, a tributary of Kallada River in Pathanapuram taluk of Kollam district. The presiding deity here is Lord Ayyappa in the form of Bala Sastha. It is one among the 108 Sastha shrines in Kerala. The idol here is believed to be installed by Lord Parashurama. The deity here is in a fierce mood (ugramoorthi) as well as in auspicious mood (mangalapradayakan). Shiva, Yakshi, Vishnu, Ganapathi, Boothathan, Nagar, and Karuppaswami are the other subordinate deities in the temple.

Legend says that the temple was founded by Pandalam raja, but the idol of Sastha was founded by a Brahmin from Kottarakkara. Earlier, the temple was under Kottarakkara raja and later handed over to the Travancore Devaswom board. The pond near the temple is another attraction. Devotees offer Meenoottu vazhipadu for healing the warts in the skin. All the devotees are so concerned about protecting the fishes in this pond, considering them as lord Ayyappa's favorite ones. Fishing is also strictly prohibited here. The tantric rights of the temple are held by Kokkalathu madom.

The temple is located in the reserve forest range of eastern Kollam. Thiruvananthapuram - Shenkottai highway passes through Kulathupuzha. Devotees from Tamil Nadu can approach the temple via Tenkasi - Shenkottai - Aryankavu - Thenmala route. The nearest railway station is Thenmala, approximately 10 km.

Vishu Mahotsavam in the months of April and May is an important festival. The Tiruvutsavam is celebrated in the month of Medam from 5th to 14th.

Ref: dtpckollam.com

Kulathupuzha Sastha Temple



It is believed that Lord Parashurama installed the idol here after the temple was built by the Raja of Pandalam

Kulathupuzha is a small village in the Kollam district, connecting Kollam and Shenkottai. Dense forests and the Kulathupuzha River thriving with numerous fish species add to the beauty of the Sastha temple here, one of the most popular destinations among Ayyappa devotees. The temple is of utmost religious importance. It is dedicated to Bala Sastha, or Ayyappan as a boy, and in his mature avatar. It is believed that Lord Parashurama installed the idol here after the temple was built by the Raja of Pandalam. But the idol was discovered by a Brahmin many years later.

The temple's layout is a superb illustration of conventional Kerala architecture. It is customary to feed the fish in the pond near the temple with peanuts or rice as an offering. Fishing is prohibited here as the fish in the pond are said to be dear to the deity. The temple is one among the 108 Sastha shrines in Kerala. Throughout Vishnu Mahotsavam, the temple also organises a yearly procession. Thousands of followers flock to the village to participate in this auspicious festival.

How to Reach

By Road

Kollam Bus Stand, about 60.9 km

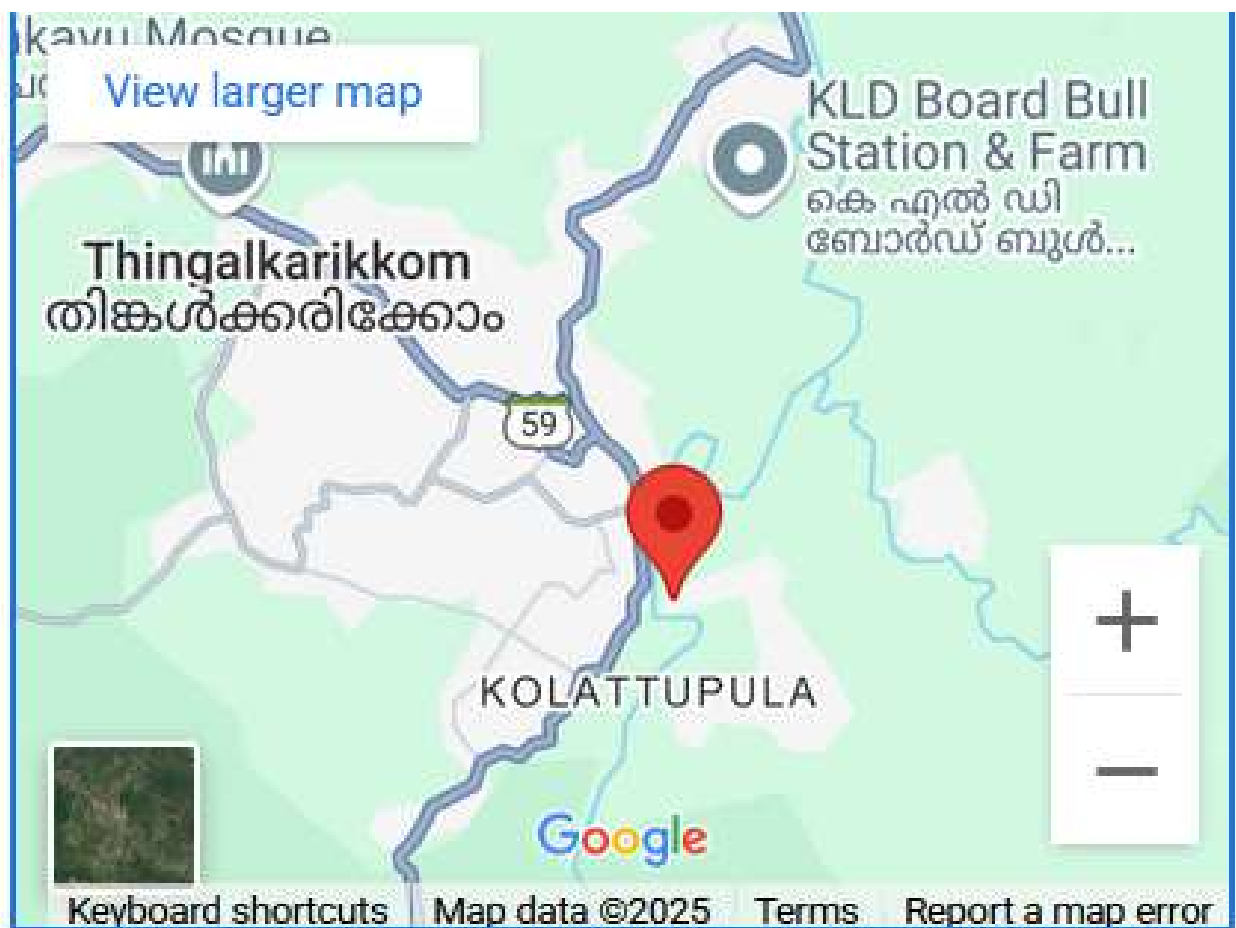
By Rail

Kollam Railway Station, about 58.8 km

By Air

Thiruvananthapuram International Airport, about 73.7 km

Map



Ref: keralatemples.info

Shree Kulathupuzha Bala Saasthaa Temple



Kulathupuzha Sastha Temple is located on the banks of Kulathupuzha, a tributary of Kallada River in Pathanapuram taluk of Kollam district. The presiding deity here is Lord Ayyappa in the form of Bala Sastha and commonly known as 'Kulathupuzha Balakan'. The deity here is in a fierce mood (Ugramoorthi) as well as in auspicious mood (Mangalapradayakan). Legend has it that an elderly Brahmin returning from his Rameswaram pilgrimage camped on the Kallada Riverbank. His servants started the preparation for the evening meal and they looked out for stones to create the makeshift oven.

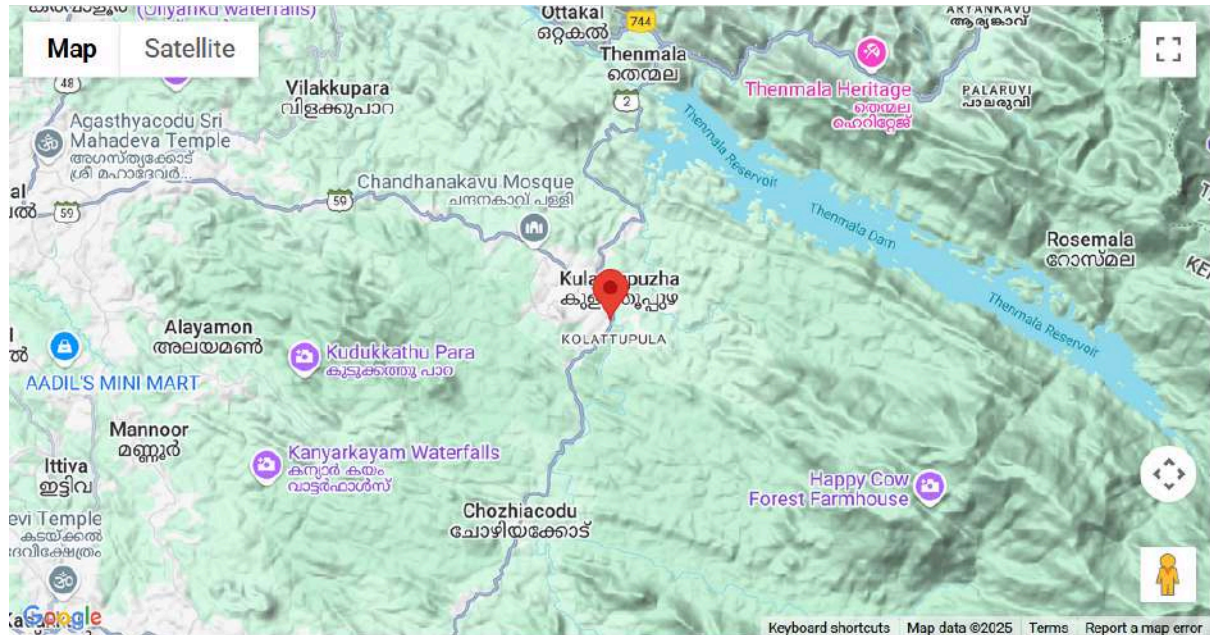
They found a fixed stone nearby and brought two stones to create the oven. But the fixed stone was bigger than the two stones. The servants placed two stones on top of each other to adjust the height. Suddenly, the first stone grew a bit taller. The poor servants raised the level of the two stones again but the fixed stone again grew a bit taller. This exercise of adjusting the height continued for a while.

Finally frustrated with the fixed stone, one of the servants hit the fixed stone with another stone. Suddenly blood gushed out of the fixed stone and the scared servants ran and reported the matter to the Brahmin. The Brahmin sprinkled some tirtha (sacred water) brought from Rameshwaram on the bleeding fixed stone. Soon, Lord Ayyappa appeared in the form of a child before the Brahmin and his servants.

Earlier, the temple was under Kottarakkara raja and later was handed over to Travancore Devaswom board. The pond near the temple is another attraction. Devotees offer Meenoottu vazhipadu for healing the warts in the skin. All the devotees are so concerned about protecting the fishes in this pond, considering them as lord Ayyappa's favorite ones. They

are known as the Thirumakkal (transl. Holy children) of Lord Ayyappa. Most of these fishes belong to species *Tor khudree* and *Hypselobarbus thomassi* that are under threat of extinction. Fishing is also strictly prohibited here. The tantric rights of the temple are held by Kokkalathu madom.

Location Map



Main Deity

Lord Ayyappan

Other Deities

Shiva, Yakshi, Vishnu, Ganapathi, Boothathan, Naga, Bhagawathy, and Karuppaswami

Festivals

Vishu Mahotsavam in the months of April and May is an important festival. The Tiruvutsavam is celebrated in the month of Medam from 5th to 14th.

Main Offerings

Aravana Payasam, Unniappam, Meenootu (Fish Feeding).

How To Reach

By Air: Trivandrum International Airport is situated at 64.2KM from the temple.

By Rail: Punalur Railway Station is 30.3KM from the Temple.

By Road: Punalur KSRTC Bus Station is 29.1KM from the Temple.

Ref: holidify.com

Kulathupuzha

Kulathupuzha, Kollam Overview

Kulathupuzha is a small village located in the district of Kollam in God's own Country, Kerala, India. It is located on the Kollam-Shenkottai highway and is barely 59 kilometres away from Kollam and 64 kilometres away from Thiruvananthapuram. The village river, River Kulathupuzha, is home to numerous species of fishes and the region is as rich and dense forests and rubber plantations.

The Myristica Swamps and the forest region form the Kulathupuzha Reserve Forest and the Kulathupuzha Wildlife Sanctuary. One of the oldest tea estates also is located in the village. Tourists not only get a glimpse into the lifestyle of the villagers but also experience it as they explore the village.

Places To Visit in Kulathupuzha

Kulathupuzha Temple

Kulathupuzha is a famous pilgrimage centre because of Sastha Temple which is located on the banks of River Kulathupuzha. It is dedicated to Bala Sastha and Ayyappa and is of great religious importance to the believers and followers of Bala Sastha. According to a legend, the temple was built by Raja of Pandalam, but it was only years later that the Idol was discovered by a Brahmin. The temple architecture is a perfect illustration of ancient Kerala architecture. Feeding the fish (in the pond surrounding the temple) with puffed peanuts or rice is believed to be customary. The temple also arranges an annual procession during Vishnu Mahotsavam. Thousands of devotees flock the village to become a part of this auspicious festival.

Timings: 6:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Dairy Farm

The Dairy Farm at Kulathupuzha is a high tech farm that was launched as part of the Indo-Swiss Modern Dairy Farm Project. The farm uses new technology and modern machinery for their daily activities of feeding, milking and shed management.

Kulathupuzha Forest Reserve

The forest reserve expands over an area of over 1000 square km and comes under the southern reserve forests of the South-Indian state of Kerala. They are classified as tropical-wet, semi-evergreen and moist deciduous forests. A major area of these reserves is also used for teak, eucalyptus and acacia plantations.

Kattilapara

Kattilapara is an attraction apt for adventure freaks and offers some adventure and recreational sports like trekking, wildlife safari, jungle safari etc.

Bharatheepuram Oil Palm Plantations

They are located very near to the Sastha Temple. The plantations are about 40 years old and are considered as an agricultural asset in Kerala.

Best Time To Visit Kulathupuzha

The best time to visit Kulathupuzha is between October and February as the weather is quite pleasant with the maximum temperature going as high as 32 degrees Celcius and the minimum as low as 22 degrees Celsius. March to May are summer months when the maximum temperature could go as high as 37 degrees Celsius with a minimum temperature of about 25 degrees Celsius. June through September are monsoon months that receive an average annual rainfall of over 598 mm.

Tips For Visiting Kulathupuzha

1. Parking space is available near the temple area.
2. The river current could be strong, be careful while entering the river water.
3. Wear appropriate gear suitable for the adventure activities.
4. While visiting the temple, follow a conservative dress code.

Attractions at Kulathupuzha

Kulathupuzha is renowned for its ancient Sastha Temple and an Indo-Swiss Modern Dairy Farms Project. The Sastha temple is dedicated to Bala Sastha who is considered an avatar of Lord Hariharaputra and is situated on the banks of River Kulathupuzha. The most important event in Kulathupuzha is the annual festival of Vishnu Mahotsavam which is celebrated during the months of April and May.

The festival attracts tourists from all over the world. The village has a lot in store for tourists including the culture, the colours, the local cuisine and the lifestyle. Devotees on their way to Sabarimala often halt here and offer their prayers to Bala Sastha. Kulathupuzha is a must-see for one and all.

Similar places



Amritapuri Ashram



Kottarakkara Sree Mahaganapathi Kshethram



Kottukal Cave Temple



Karunagappalli



Oachira Temple



Mayyanad



Aryankavu Ayyappan Temple



Pattazhi

Nearby Places



Palaruvi Waterfalls



Rosemala



Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary



Punalur Suspension Bridge



Aryankavu Ayyappan Temple



Kottukal Cave Temple



Jatayu Earth's Centre



Kumbhavurutti Waterfalls

Top Hotels near Kulathupuzha



Thenmala Heritage

★★★★

📍 10 kms

₹ 2,000 onwards



The Leela Ashtamudi, A Raviz Hotel...

📍 53 kms

₹ 7,550 onwards



The Quilon Beach Hotel and Convention Center...

📍 51 kms

₹ 6,000 onwards

Ref:holyprasadam.com

Sree Kulathupuzha Bala Sastha Temple



Address:

Sree Kulathupuzha Bala Sastha Temple

Thiruvananthapuram - Thenmala Road, Kulathupuzha, Kollam, Kerala 691310

Presiding Deity:

Sree Sastha

Sub Deities:

Sree Ganapathy, Lord Siva, Sree Mahavishnu, Yakshi, Nagadevas, Karuppa Swamy, Bhoothathan

Important Festivals and Days:

Annual festival in Medam, Vishu, Mandala Vilakku

History

Kulathupuzha Bala Sastha Temple, located in Kulathupuzha in the Kollam district of Kerala, is a revered Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shasta. It is one of the five significant Sastha temples in Kerala, alongside Aryankavu, Achankovil, Sabarimala, and Kanthamala. The idol of Shasta at this temple is believed to have been installed by Parashurama and is crafted from eight pieces of stone. A unique aspect of this temple is the Meenoottu (fish feeding) offering, which attracts many devotees. According to legend, the temple is one of the five Sastha temples established by Parashurama. It is said that Shasta allowed a Jala Kanyaka

(mermaid) who desired him to reside in the temple pond in the form of a fish. There is also a belief that the temple was initially founded by the Raja of Pandalam, while the idol of Shasta was consecrated by a Brahmin from Kottarakkara. Originally under the possession of the King of Kottarakkara, the temple was later transferred to the Travancore Devaswom Board, which currently governs it. The tantric rites of the temple are performed by the Kokkalathu Mutt.

Temple Timings

THE TEMPLE OPENS AT 5:00 AM

5:00 AM: Nada Thurakkal

6:30 AM: Usha Pooja

11:45 AM: Ucha Pooja

TEMPLE CLOSSES AT 12:00 PM

TEMPLE WILL BE CLOSED BETWEEN 12:00 PM AND 5:00 PM

TEMPLE OPENS AT 5:00 PM

6:30 PM: Deeparadhana

7:45 PM: Athazha Pooja

TEMPLE CLOSSES AT 8:00 PM

Poojas and Charges

Aikyamathiyasooktha Archana ഐക്യമത്യസൂക്ത അർച്ചന ₹50	Appanivedhyam അപ്പനിവേദ്യം ₹50	Ashtadravya Ganapathy Homam അഷ്ടദ്രവ്യ ഗണപതി ഹോമം ₹500
Ayilya Pooja ആയില്യ പൂജ ₹35	Bhagavathy Seva ഭഗവതി സേവാ ₹300	Bhagyasooktham Archana ഭാഗ്യസൂക്തം അർച്ചന ₹30
Ellu Paayasam എള്ള് പായസം ₹100	Ganapathy Homam ഗണപതി ഹോമം ₹60	Kettunira കെട്ടുനിറ ₹35
Kudumbarchana കുടുംബാർച്ചന ₹50	Maala Poojikkal മാല പൂജിക്കൽ ₹20	Mrithyunjaya Havanam മൃത്യുഞ്ജയ ഹവനം ₹100

Mukham Chaarthu മുഖം ചാർത്തു ₹75	Navakam നവകം ₹100	Neeranjana നീരാഞ്ജനം ₹25
Paanakam പാനകം ₹50	Pithru Pooja പിതൃ പൂജ ₹30	Raktha Pushpanjali രക്ത പുഷ്പാഞ്ജലി ₹30
Sahasranama Archana സഹസ്രനാമ അർച്ചന ₹40	Swayamvara Archana സ്വയംവര അർച്ചന ₹30	Thakidum Koodum Pooja തകിടും കൂടും പൂജ ₹50
Thali Pooja താലി പൂജ ₹180	Thilahavanam തിലഹവനം ₹50	Vahana Pooja വാഹന പൂജ ₹250
Vidhyarabham വിദ്യാരംഭം ₹50		

Ref: [tripadvisor.in](https://www.tripadvisor.in)

Kulathupuzha Sastha Temple

Photos









Comments by Visitors



sbchand

Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum), India • 420 contributions

👍 0 ...



Kulathupuzha Sree Dharma sastha Temple

Apr 2014 • Family

This is one of the five famous abodes of Lord Ayyappa .Situated on the Trivandrum Shencotta road it is accessible by road from Trivandrum. The Temple is across a River and you have good parking space for your vehicle.

The Idol is that of Sri Dharma Sastha in his childhood form. There are upadevathas also to be seen in this temple.

The most popular offering at the temple is feeding the multitude of Fish playing around in the River.

The school of large fish crowd around the area where devotees offer Rice (uncooked), Puffed Rice etc..

Written 27 November 2014



Sajeed K

Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum), India • 1,047 contributions

👍 0 ...



Nice Place to feed fish!

Dec 2014 • Family

Kulathupuzha temple is attracted by tourist due to a fish feeding area of Kulathupuzha river near by the Temple. Some devotees of the temple are strongly believe that the fishes in the river are "Thirumakkal" of lord Vishnu . Anyway you can feed the fish here with rice, peanut etc..

Written 6 January 2015



Devarajan V
11 contributions

👍 0 ...



Temple

Jan 2019

A very small temple of sastha. Fishes in the river running near the temple is really a great view. Due to road widening it was a little bumpy ride.

Written 13 February 2019



mail2mathews96
Hyderabad, India • 216 contributions

👍 0 ...



Kulathuppuzha Sastha Temple

Feb 2018 • Friends

Kulathuppuzha Sastha Temple is one the best temple had visited with friends place is awesome very silent place

Written 23 July 2018



mathanraj2014
Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum), India • 203 contributions

👍 3 ...



Kulathupuzha Sastha Temple

Jun 2017 • Family

The diety here is in the form of a boy (Bala Sasta). The peculiarity of the idol is that it is not a single idol, but is made of eight pieces or stones..The fishes in the Kulathupuzha river are called Thirumakkal (Sacred children of the Lord) Meenoottu (feeding of the fishes) is a special Vazhipadu here. Normally, grams and wheat flour are offered to thirumakkal. It is deceases are cured by Meenoottu. Myself and my wife felt so blessed..



Written 25 June 2017



great4traveller
423 contributions

👍 0 ...



Temple dedicated to Lord Ayyappa

Nov 2016 • Family

A very famous old Temple dedicated to Lord Ayyappa who is in the form of Balasastha. The idol is believed to be installed by Parasurama. A beautiful Temple on the banks of a river.

Written 29 March 2017

**Karthik R**

Chennai (Madras), India • 7,636 contributions

👍 1 ...

**Serene and divine temple**

Apr 2017 • Family

Kulathupuzha is one of the important temples of Lord Ayyappan. This is located around 56 kms from Varkala beach. This temple is where the Lord is incarnated in child form. This small and popular temple is on the banks of river Kulathupuzha and across a narrow bridge. Gents have to remove upper garments to enter the main sanctum and no restrictions for ladies. It takes around 15 minutes to have a satisfactory dharshan on a normal day. We reached the temple by 10:45 and had excellent dharshan.



Written 5 May 2017

**Reetesh K**

Vijayawada, India • 136 contributions

👍 0 ...

**Dharma Sastha Temple**

Jan 2017 • Friends

It is one among 5 Dharma Sastha temples which is must to visit by a Ayyapa devotee. It is a pleasant place lying near forest and on bank of some lake.

Written 26 January 2017

**Raju G**

Kollam, India • 26 contributions

👍 0 ...

**One of the oldest Sasta temples.**

Apr 2016 • Family

Originally a Buddha temple, established by established by a member of one of the descendant families of the Madurai ruling family during the 9th century A.D who later came to be known as the Raja of Pantalam. The temple now is worshiped as a Hindu temple.

Written 6 August 2016

**AmuthaDinesh**

Nagercoil, India • 325 contributions

👍 0 ...

**Big and small fish - A feast to the eyes**

Mar 2016

There is a river in front of the temple in which we can find a shoal of fish big and small and with different colours including red swimming everywhere. We can also feed them and it's wonderful to watch them grabbing their food.

Written 4 March 2016

Ref: lightuptemples.com

Kulathupuzha Sree Bala Sastha Temple

October 25, 2021



Address

Kulathupuzha Sree Ayyappa Swamy Temple/ Sree Bala Sastha Temple – Kerala

Deity

Ayyappa

Introduction

- **Temple Name:** Kulathupuzha Sastha Temple
- **Location:** On the banks of the Kulathupuzha River, a tributary of Kallada River, in Punalur taluk, Kollam district, Kerala
- **Presiding Deity:** Lord Ayyappa in the form of Bala Sastha (child form of Ayyappa)
- **Significance:** One of the pancha sastha shrines and one of the 108 Sastha shrines in Kerala
- **Idol Composition:** Made up of eight pieces of stones; believed to be installed by Lord Parashurama
- **Architecture:** Constructed in the traditional Kerala style of temple architecture

Puranic Significance

- **Deity Description:**
 - Known as 'Kulathupuzha Balakan'
 - Features both fierce (ugramoorthi) and auspicious (mangalapradayakan) moods
- **Cultural Reference:**
 - Associated with the song 'Kulathupuzhayile Balakane,' praising the deity
 - Venerated along with deities from Achankovil, Aryankavu, Sasthamcotta, Chamravattom, and Sabarimala
- **Temple Pond:**
 - Home to fish known as Thirumakkal (Sacred children of the Lord)
 - Special ritual: Meenoottu (feeding of the fishes)
- **Other Deities:** Lord Shiva, Ganapathi, and Karuppaswamy are also worshipped in the temple premises
- **Legend:**
 - The idol was revealed when a Brahmin, while bathing, saw a stone break into eight pieces, which later formed the idol of Manikantan
 - The temple is believed to be over 700 years old and has historical ties with the Kingdom of Travancore
 - A unique ritual called "Thiru-kalyanam" (the wedding of Ayyappa) occurs during the Sabarimala pilgrimage, depicting a betrothal ceremony.

Special Features

- **Unique Idol:** Made of eight pieces of stone; installed by Lord Parasurama
- **Fishing Belief:** The fishes in the area are considered devotees of Dharma Sastha, and fishermen avoid catching them
- **Pilgrimage Significance:** The temple sees heavy crowds during the Mandalam period as devotees visit for Sabarimala.

Festivals

- **Major Festival:** Vishu Mahotsavam, celebrated in April

Century/Period/Age

1000-2000 Years old

Managed By

Malabar Devaswom Board.

Nearest Bus Station

Kulathupuzha

Nearest Railway Station

Kollam

Nearest Airport

Thiruvananthapuram

YouTube Videos

Kulathupuzha Bala Ayyappa Temple (7 min): <https://youtu.be/zqI00vWDLME>

Kulathupuzha Temple - travel vlog(15 min): <https://youtu.be/vgDBYUB6Uik>

Kulathupuzha Temple - temple guide(3 min): <https://youtu.be/OyY7CyhFRic>

Kulathupuzha Temple - temple journey - SV Tourism(6 min): <https://youtu.be/j6PFDMliA2w>

Kulathupuzha Temple History - short video (1 min): <https://youtu.be/U4t1T5nVgbc>

Kulathupuzha Temple - travel (6 min): <https://youtu.be/5bwxXrOBj-4>

Kulathupuzha Temple (6 min): <https://youtu.be/Mch5FvMllbg>

Kulathupuzha Temple (7 min): https://youtu.be/A3Z_8irT80Y

Temple History in Tamil (4 min): <https://youtu.be/wkBzjzsrE0>

Temple Exteriors (5 min): <https://youtu.be/lbni4IZfAME>

Kulathupuzha Temple Fishes (7 min): <https://youtu.be/5JY7Y2qgn7o>

Kulathupuzha Temple Travel (8 min): <https://youtu.be/7NHs5j8paS8>

Bali Tharpanam in Temple (0.37 min): <https://youtu.be/0ZBxX9-bzX4>

Kulathupuzha Temple Travel (30 min): <https://youtu.be/Ub8ohsMQ8-A>

Kulathupuzha Temple (7 min): https://youtu.be/F_a6_yckJ0U

Kulathupuzha Temple (6 min): <https://youtu.be/aXCZjbEEvB8>



ॐ स॒ह ना॑ ववतु । स॒ह नौ॑ भुनक्तु । स॒ह वी॒र्यं॑ करवावहे । तेज॑स्विना॒वधी॑तमस्तु मा वि॒द्विषा॑वहे ॥ (3)

ॐ शान्तिः॒ शान्तिः॒ शान्तिः॑ ॥ (3)

Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar

**Aryankavu Sastha Temple, Kollam,
Kerala, India**



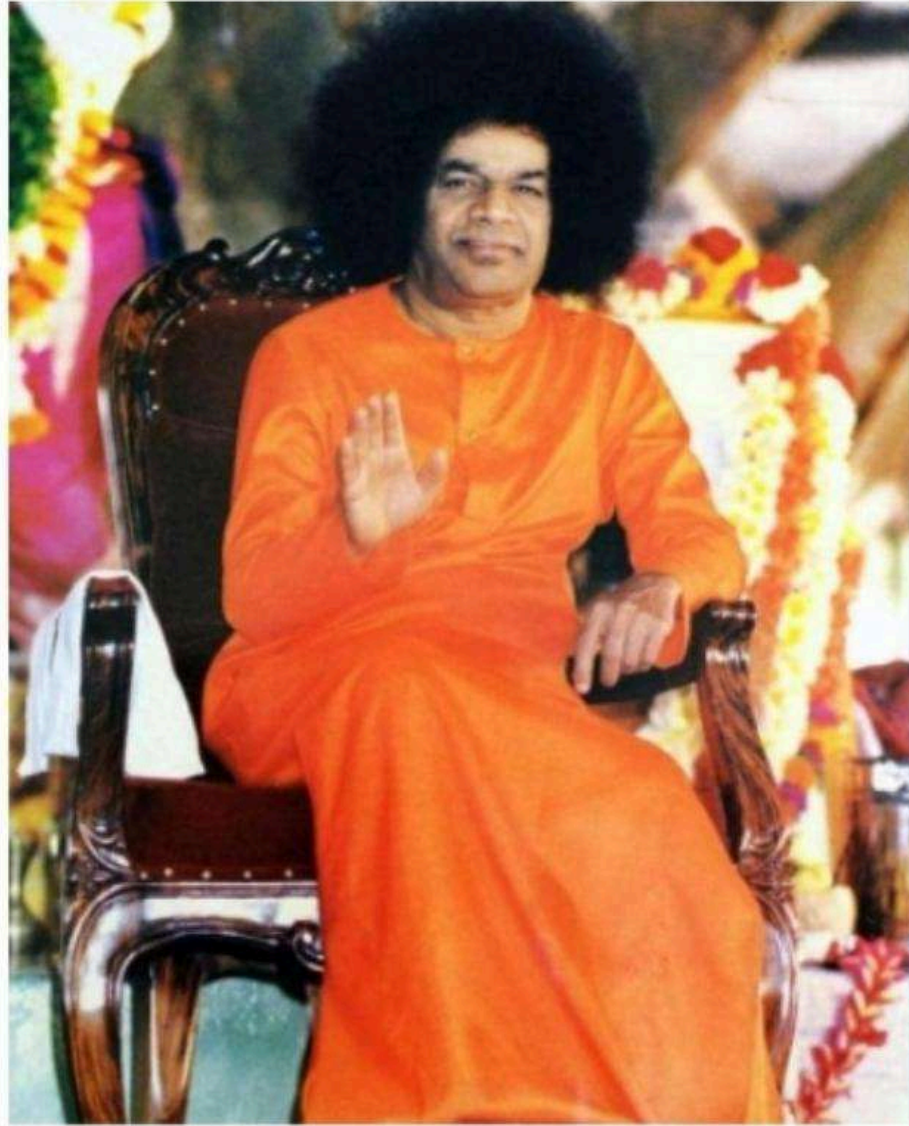
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Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Trombay, Mumbai, India
and
Centre for Advanced Technology, Indore 452013, India

DEDICATION

**This work is lovingly dedicated at the lotus feet of:
Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba**



**There is only ONE caste -The Caste of Humanity
There is only ONE religion –The Religion of Love
There is only ONE language –The Language of the Heart
There is only ONE God –He is Omnipresent**

.....Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba

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PREFACE



This free ebook gives briefly info about: “ **Aryankavu Sastha Temple, Kollam, Kerala, India**”.

The principal deity of the temple is Shasta, in the form of a teenager.^[4] The deity is locally known as Aryankavu Ayyan and Tiruarian. The temple is known for hosting a ritualistic marriage ceremony known as "Thiru Kalyanam" or "Thrikalyanam" (divine wedding) annually in December during the Sabarimala pilgrimage.^{[2][5]} According to the legends, Shasta married Shri Pushkaladevi of the Saurashtra community in Aryankavu.^[2] The marriage rituals are performed according to the traditions of the Saurashtra community.

Details of Temple History, legends and significance, architecture, Timings, festivals, deities, poojas and rituals, their charges, special poojas and their charges, address, map, phone number and how to reach there, significance, where to stay - accommodation, nearby temples and other attractions, contact info, info for devotees, facilities, FAQs, do's and don'ts for devotees, tips for devotees, donation info, similar places, nearby places, comments by visitors..etc are given.

Links to YouTube Videos give videos relating to the temple, its history, legends, festivals, Temple travel vlogs, temple tour,.....etc.

Acknowledgements:

Many of my friends and relatives have actively encouraged me in my attempt to compile this free ebook. I sincerely thank them for their support.

My wife Kala has always encouraged and supported me in all my literary works, sacrificing much of her time. I express my deep appreciation to her.

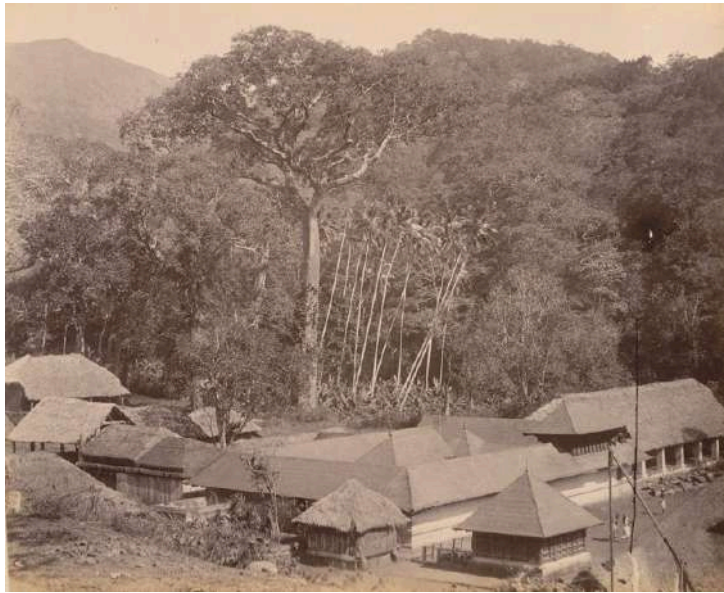
I have drawn from many references, and Facebook, YouTube as mentioned in the text.

Finally, I express my immense gratitude to Sri Sathya Sai Baba for His Grace and blessings, prompting me to initiate, continue and complete this work.

Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar,
March 11, 2025
Email: tmuliya@rediffmail.com

Ref: Wikipedia

Aryankavu Sastha Temple



The temple in the 1900s

The **Aryankavu Sastha Temple** is a Hindu temple located in Aryankavu in the Kollam district of the Indian state of Kerala. It is one of the five major temples dedicated to Shasta in Kerala, the others being Kulathupuzha, Achankovil, Sabarimala and Kanthamala. The temple's idol is believed to have been consecrated by Parashurama.^[1] The temple is governed by the Travancore Devaswom Board.

Etymology

The name "Aryankavu" is believed to be derived from the words "Aryan" which indicates Shasta and "Kavu" which means sacred grove.

The temple

It is located in Aryankavu in the tehsil of Punalur in Kollam district. The temple lies near the border of Tamil Nadu on National Highway 744, about 73 km (45 mi) from Kollam, 33 km (21 mi) from Punalur and 21 km (13 mi) from Tenkasi. The temple is built in the traditional architectural styles of both Kerala and Tamil Nadu and preserves several murals of Hindu deities. As in Sabarimala, the temple also has 18 steps. Another feature of the temple is that it is built 11 metres (36 ft) below the road level.^[2] The puja and rituals conducted in the temple follow a Tamil tradition.

Deities

The principal deity of the temple is Shasta, in the form of a teenager.^[4] The deity is locally known as Aryankavu Ayyan and Tiruarian.^[5] He is depicted in a seated posture on an elephant, with the right leg hanging and the left leg in a folded position, along with his consort Pushkala on the left side and Shiva on the right.^[1] The original idol of the deity was

made with a special type of stone known as *Anjanapashanam*.^[4] It was later replaced with an idol made of panchaloha. The subordinate deities of the temple are Valiyakadutha, Karuppu Sami and Karuppai Amma.^[6]

Rituals and festivals

The temple is known for hosting a ritualistic marriage ceremony known as "Thiru Kalyanam" or "Thrikalyanam" (divine wedding) annually in December during the Sabarimala pilgrimage.^{[2][5]} According to the legends, Shasta married Shri Pushkaladevi of the Saurashtra community in Aryankavu.^[2] The marriage rituals are performed according to the traditions of the Saurashtra community in a dedicated Mandapa.^[2] Kerala rituals are followed inside the temple, while Tamil rituals are observed outside during the time of festival.^{[5][7]} On the occasion of Thiru Kalyanam, many unmarried girls visit the temple.^[8] Pandiyan Mudippu (engagement) and Kumbhabhishekham are other important festivals.

Ref: ChatGPT - AI

Aryankavu Sastha Temple, Kollam

Qn:

About Aryankavu Sastha Temple, Kollam, Kerala:

Temple location .address, contact phone number of Temple office .how to get there..Temple history..legends..architecture..main deity and other deities..daily poojas and rituals ..special poojas .. .Festivals..speciality of this Temple.. facilities for devotees.. accommodation etc..do's and don't for devotees..temples nearby..hotels nearby , 3 or 4 comments by visitors to the temple (if available)., online sevas booking facility, similar places, nearby places, donation info and methods of payment including upi address and qr code etc, .

Ans:

Aryankavu Sastha Temple, Kollam, Kerala

Aryankavu Sastha Temple is one of the **Pancha Sastha Temples** of Kerala, where **Lord Ayyappa is worshipped in the form of a groom (Brahmachari form)**. This temple is a significant pilgrimage site, especially for devotees on their way to **Sabarimala**.

1. Temple Location & Contact Details



Address:

Sri Aryankavu Dharma Sastha Temple,
Aryankavu, Punalur, Kollam District, Kerala – 691309



Temple Office Contact: +91 475 221 3550

 **Managed by: Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB)**
 **TDB Contact: +91 471 233 7790**
 **Website: www.travancoredevaswomboard.org**

2. How to Reach Aryankavu Temple?

- **By Road:** Well-connected by buses and taxis from **Kollam (78 km)**, **Trivandrum (85 km)**, and **Punalur (35 km)**.
- **By Train:** **Aryankavu Railway Station (1 km)** is the closest, with **Punalur Railway Station (35 km)** offering more train options.
- **By Air:** Nearest airport is **Trivandrum International Airport (95 km)**.

3. Temple History & Legends

- The temple is believed to be **established by Sage Parashurama**.
- According to legend, **Lord Sastha married Pushkaladevi at Aryankavu**, making it unique among Ayyappa temples.
- The temple is located near the **Western Ghats**, surrounded by **dense forests and waterfalls**.

4. Architecture & Special Features

- Built in **traditional Kerala-Tamil fusion style**, featuring **carved wooden ceilings and stone pillars**.
- **Sanctum (Sreekovil)** is inside a **cave-like structure**, giving the temple a mystical feel.
- **18 holy steps (Pathinettampadi)** similar to Sabarimala.

5. Main Deity & Other Deities

- **Main Deity: Lord Ayyappa (Sastha) in Brahmachari form.**
- **Other Deities:**
 - **Pushkaladevi** (Consort of Sastha)
 - **Malikappurathamma**
 - **Vana Durga**
 - **Lord Shiva**

6. Daily Poojas & Rituals

The temple follows **traditional Kerala Tantric rituals**.

Daily Worship Schedule:

- **Nirmalyam** – Early morning ritual before opening.
- **Abhishekam (Holy Bathing Ceremony)** – Water, milk, and sandalwood paste are used for bathing the deity.
- **Usha Pooja (Morning Pooja)** – First major worship of the day.
- **Pantheeradi Pooja** – Mid-morning worship at an auspicious time.

- **Ucha Pooja (Noon Pooja)** – Special offerings made to Lord Sastha.
- **Deeparadhana (Evening Lamp Worship)** – The temple glows with oil lamps.
- **Athazha Pooja (Night Pooja)** – The final worship before closing the temple.

7. Special Poojas & Rituals

- **Thirukalyanam (Divine Marriage Ceremony)** – A special ritual symbolizing Sastha's wedding with Pushkaladevi.
- **Neyyabhishekam (Ghee Offering)** – Devotees offer ghee to Lord Sastha.
- **Ganapathi Homam** – Fire ritual for success and obstacle removal.
- **Sahasranama Archana** – Recital of **1,000 names of Lord Ayyappa** with flower offerings.
- **Thulabharam** – Devotees offer items like bananas, jaggery, or coins equal to their body weight.

8. Major Festivals at Aryankavu Temple

- **Mandala Pooja (November-December)** – Major festival for **Sabarimala Pilgrims**.
- **Thirukalyanam (December 14th)** – Grand **wedding festival** of Lord Ayyappa and Pushkaladevi.
- **Makaravilakku (January)** – Celebrated with **rituals and processions**.
- **Vishu (April 14th)** – New Year celebration with **Vishukkani Darshanam**.

9. Specialty of Aryankavu Temple

- **One of the rare Ayyappa temples where Sastha is worshipped as a groom.**
- **Sacred "18 holy steps" (Pathinettampadi)** similar to Sabarimala.
- **Located amidst dense forests and waterfalls**, creating a divine atmosphere.
- **Pilgrims en route to Sabarimala** often stop here for blessings.

10. Facilities for Devotees

- ✓ **Annadanam (Free Lunch for Devotees)**
- ✓ **Drinking Water and Restrooms**
- ✓ **Shops Selling Pooja Items & Prasadam**
- ✓ **Parking Facilities**

11. Accommodation Near Aryankavu Temple

The temple does not provide its own accommodation, but nearby options include:

Nearby Hotels & Lodges

1. **KTDC Tamarind, Punalur (35 km)** – Budget-friendly
2. **Thenmala Ecotourism Cottages (25 km)** – Mid-range
3. **Saalar Resort, Tenkasi (40 km)** – ★★ ★
4. **Hotel Green Royale, Thenmala (22 km)** – Comfortable lodging

12. Do's & Don'ts for Devotees

Do's:

- ✓ **Wear traditional attire** (Men: Dhoti, Women: Saree/Churidar).
- ✓ **Maintain silence and discipline** inside the temple.
- ✓ **Follow temple timings** for darshan and poojas.

Don'ts:

- ✗ **Non-Hindus may not be allowed inside the inner sanctum.**
- ✗ **Avoid leather items, footwear, and mobile photography** inside the temple.
- ✗ **Do not bring outside food** into the temple premises.

13. Nearby Temples & Places

- **Kulathupuzha Sastha Temple (30 km)** – Ayyappa in **child form**.
- **Achankovil Sastha Temple (80 km)** – Famous for **Kalabham prasadam**.
- **Palaruvi Waterfalls (5 km)** – One of Kerala's most beautiful waterfalls.
- **Thenmala Ecotourism (25 km)** – India's first **planned ecotourism** destination.

14. Visitor Reviews & Comments

★ "A divine and peaceful temple, especially during the Thirukalyanam festival." – Suresh, Trivandrum

★ "Feels like Sabarimala, but in a smaller, less crowded setting." – Priya, Kollam

★ "The temple's location near Palaruvi Waterfalls makes it a perfect spiritual and nature retreat." – Rajesh, Bangalore

15. Online Seva Booking & Donation Methods

Is Online Seva Booking Available?

Currently, **online seva booking is NOT available**. You must visit the temple office to book rituals.

How to Make a Donation?

1. Direct Bank Transfer (NEFT/RTGS)

- The temple's **official bank details are not publicly available**.
- **Call the temple office (+91 475 221 3550)** to get the latest details.

2. UPI / QR Code Donations

- Some Kerala temples provide **Google Pay, PhonePe, or Paytm UPI QR codes** at the donation counter.
- You may find the **QR code displayed at the temple office**.

3. Donation at the Temple Office

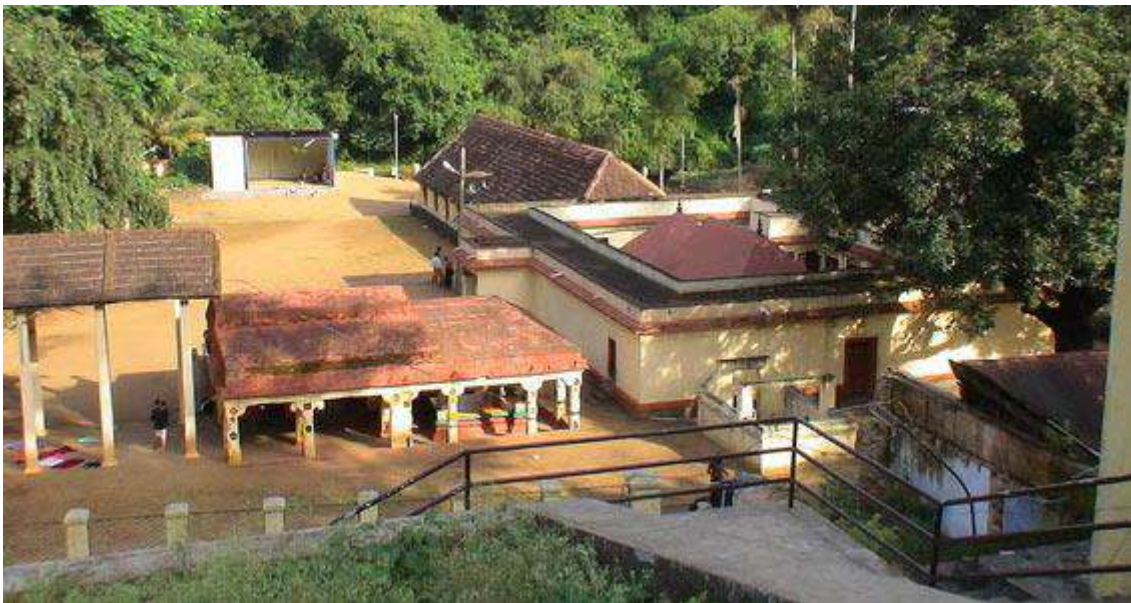
- You can donate **cash or cheque** at the temple counter.
- An **official receipt** will be provided for your contribution.

4. Postal Money Order / Demand Draft

- Some temples accept **DDs/Money Orders** in favor of the temple trust.
- Confirm the **payee name and postal details** by calling the temple office.

Ref: sabarimala.kerala.gov.in

Aryankavu Ayyappan Temple



Aryankavu is famous for its Ayyappan temple. The Ayyappa Temple at Aryankavu in Kollam District is one among the five most important temples dedicated to Lord Ayyappa in Kerala. The shrine is also known as Aryankavu Shastha Temple. Lord Ayyappa is depicted here as a teenager (young boy). Ayyappa is known as Tiru Aryan and therefore the place got the name Aryankavu.

Surrounded by forests, the temple is located on the Trivandrum – Tenkasi National Highway. Just like in Sabarimala, women from the age 10 to 50 are not allowed inside the Aryankavu Ayyappa Temple. The rituals and pujas followed at Aryankavu Sastha Temple is that of Tamil tradition. The sanctum sanctorum of the temple has idols of Devi, Shiva and Sastha. A young Ayyappa sits in the middle with Devi on the left side and Shiva on the right side.

The festival at the temple is celebrated during the concluding days of the Sabarimala Mandala Kalam. The most important festivals observed here include Pandiyan Mudippu, Trikkalyanam and Kumbhabhishekam. The temple can be accessed by traveling on Kollam – Punalur – Tenkasi road or by traveling on the Trivandrum – Tenkasi road.

Ref: pilgrimagetemple.wordpress.com

Aryankavu Sastha Temple

Aryankavu Sastha Temple a Hindu temple located in the Pathanapuram tehsil of Kollam district, in the eastern forest ranges and one among the *Pancha Sastha* temples. The idol here is believed to be consecrated by Parashurama. The temple has separate shrines for Valiyakadutha, Karuppaswami and Karuppayiamma below the holy steps. Lord is worshipped as a young boy sitting on an elephant with right leg hanging and left leg being in a folded position, along with his consort *Prabha* on the left side and Lord Shiva on the right. As in Sabarimala, the temple too has 18 steps. In the past, Women from 10 to 50 age groups were denied entry to the temple. Another feature of the temple is that it is built 35 feet below the road level. It is located near the border of TamilNadu and Kerala states. The present temple is believed to be constructed by *Mayal*, who was the wife of Chokkampetty Zamindar Chinnanganchan Pandiyan of the Marava race.

Behind the name

The name 'Aryankavu' is believed to be originated from the words "Aryan" which generally denotes the deity *Sastha* and 'Kavu' being the place where he is worshipped. The deity here is also known as *Tiru Aryan*.

Story Behind

In prior days the Sourashtrians sold silk dresses to the Travancore rulers. One such specialist went to offer silk dresses to Travancore with his virgin little girl. On his way he achieved Aryankavu by night, so he needed to stay there. The next morning in the wake of freshen up he was prepared to begin, when his little girl asked him that she needed to remain back there and continue appealing to Lord Ayyappan. She was awed by the Lord and committed to him. The general population of the place likewise recommended not to bring his little girl with, as it was a thick woods adventure and they guaranteed to deal with the young lady. The agent inspired by his little girl's bhakthi towards Lord Ayyappan, left her accountable for an archakar in that temple.

In the wake of finishing his business in Travancore he returned towards Aryankavu. As he was nearing Aryankavu, a major one horned elephant came undermining towards him. The representative was frightfully perplexed by this sudden appearance of the elephant and began supplicating boisterously 'Ayyappa help and spare me'. Around then a well-assembled seeker showed up abruptly and yelled towards the elephant to go. On hearing that the elephant left like an enchantment The specialist was inspired and advised

the seeker,” you have spared my life and my family like a divine being”. In a token of gratitude, the agent gave a rich silk fabric to the seeker. The seeker wearing the fabric around his neck asked the businessperson ‘How would I look?’. The specialist answered ‘You resemble an excellent bridegroom’. On hearing this seeker asked him, “will you wed your girl to me.?” For that the businessperson said “why not? you have spared my life and on the off chance that you wish I will wed my little girl to you”. The seeker felt exceptionally cheerful and told that he will meet the specialist at the Aryankavu temple and he vanished. The agent was shocked that how an outsider would realize that I had a girl for marriage and with disarray, he achieved Aryankavu temple.

In the meantime the temple’s archakar had a fantasy in which Lord Ayyappan showed up and said “awaken my lover, a sourashtra specialist, is holding up at the passageway of the temple. As indicated by his desire I have joined his little girl Pushkaladevi with me. The young lady who was in your care is presently my better half and she is in a statue frame on the left half of me in the temple. I will show up alongside Pushkaladevi from today. Consistently I need the agent and his group to come here and commend this day as our marriage celebration. After that Archakar woke up from his fantasy and went to the temple alongside individuals. There he saw the businessperson. As he opened the temple entryway he saw every one of the lights of the temple lit and a little statue of Pushkaladevi was seen close to the Lord, both in a wedded stance. The silk fabric given by the agent to the seeker was found around the neck of Ayyappan. On observing that the agent realized that it was the god who had spared his life in the timberland now his little girl was hitched to the god.

Around the same time the ruler of Trivandram had a fantasy in which the master told every one of the happenings and needed him to treat the Sourashtra specialist and his group as his “Sambanthi” and approached him to be the relative for Lord amid his marriage. The lord hurried to Aryankavu and felt happy that his fantasy was valid. He treated the businessperson regally. He additionally needed the agent to accompany his kin consistently and praise this celebration. The lord requested that there ought to be an ‘Eleven day stupendous celebration’ consistently and the traditions of the Sourashtra must be taken after for the marriage. So from that point onwards and till date, each year the Government of Kerala’s agents come here as Lord’s relatives and the Sourashtra individuals as the sambanthi to the master, to celebrate. Consistently, on this occasion and all around finished Portrait of the last lord of Travancore, Balarama Varma is kept.

Festivals



Horse festival at Aryankavu

The temple has two main annual festivals mainly the *Mandalapooja* and *Trikkalyanam* (10th Dhanu). The Thirukalyanam (Sacred marriage of Lord) is the most special event of the all eleven day festival. It is conducted on the 10th day (10th Dhanu). The deities are brought together for the wedding but the wedding never takes place. The wedding is always postponed. The Lord ever remains a bridegroom. This event having many special features is conducted naturally by Brahmana Sangam of Madurai, a Travancore Devaswom Board. It is a common belief that young girls will get married within a year by worshipping the idol. The other noted festivals of the temple are Painguni and Kumbhabhishekam.

Timings

From 4.00 am to 11.00 pm, Sabarimala Ayyappa Temple is open only during certain specific periods in a year, for more details please check the temple website. Also note that only girls below the age of 10 and ladies above the age of 50 are permitted to climb up the hills to Sabarimala.

Location

Aryankavu is a village in Punalur, Kollam district, Kerala. It lies on National Highway 744 near Thenmala. It is a mountain pass in Western Ghats. The Punalur-Shenkottai metre gauge railway line also passes through Aryankavu. Aryankavu is 78 km away from Kollam and 36 km away from Punalur. The temple is located in the eastern side of Kollam district near the border of Tamil Nadu on the Kollam – Tenkasi national highway, about 73 km (45 mi) from Kollam city, 33 km (21 mi) from Punalur, 21 km (13 mi) from Tenkasi and 13 km (8.1 mi) from Shenkottai. People from south can approach the temple via Thiruvananthapuram – Thenmala – Shenkottai highway. The nearest railhead is at Aryankavu, which falls under the Madurai railway division.

Contact

Aryankavu Ayyappa Temple / Sree Dharma Sastha Temple,
NH744, Aryankavu,
Kollam District, Kerala,
India, Pin Code – 691309.

Ref: traveltriangle.com

Aryankavu Ayyappan Temple



Located in Kerala's Kollam district lies the **Aryankavu Ayyappan Temple**, a Hindu shrine dedicated to Lord Ayyappa and regarded with the highest respect. The temple's popularity brings devotees from different parts of the country, and it is treated as a Tirth. Renowned as one of the Pancha Sasta Temples (Five Shasta Temples) alongside Sabarimala, Achankovil, Kulathupuzha, and Kanthamala, Aryankavu attracts devotees seeking blessings and spiritual solace. Join along as this guide explores all the details about the Aryankavu Ayyappan Temple, its location, history, and essential information for a convenient visit there.

History And Mythology



Surrounded by legend, the Aryankavu Ayyappan Temple is a portrait of an illustrious history. Local lore attributes the temple's consecration to the mythical sage Parashurama. Another popular belief suggests that the idol of Lord Ayyappa was installed by the Pandiyan King of

Madurai. The temple's name, "Aryankavu," translates to "the forest of Ayyappa," hinting at its ancient ties to the surrounding woodlands. If you are a follower and devotee of Lord Ayyappa, chances are that you know about the significance of the Sabarimala Temple, which depicts Ayyappa in a warrior form. The Aryankavu Temple portrays him as a young boy (Bala Ayyappa). This unique representation of the deity adds to the significance of the temple. Devotees primarily visit the temple to seek blessings from the deity for their children's well-being and growth.

Best time to Visit



The allure of the temple attracts devotees throughout the year. Most devotees who learn about the Aryankavu Temple's history in Malayalam are often curious to visit and experience the beauty and serenity of the temple in real time. Like most Hindu temples in Kerala, this temple is open throughout the year. Devotees can visit, offer prayers, and seek blessings from Lord Ayyappa whenever they want. However, the most auspicious time to visit coincides with the concluding days of the Sabarimala Mandala Kalam, typically falling between November and January.

During this period, the temple witnesses a surge in devotees, creating a vibrant spiritual atmosphere. Since thousands (and more) of devotees embark on the Sabarimala pilgrimage, the temple is often overcrowded during that period. So, if you don't mind the excess crowd, this is probably the best time to visit the temple. If you don't want the hassle of long lines, and excess crowds, visit during the off-season or shoulder season. The temple often offers a respite from the busy crowds during those periods.

How to reach

If you want to reach within the Ayyappan temple opening time, here's a breakdown of the routes and transportation modes:

By Air: Trivandrum International Airport is the nearest one, from where the devotees can take taxis, local buses, etc.

By Train: Punalur (PNLR) is the closest railway station, 33 kilometres from the temple. Local public buses and taxis are plying from the station to the temple.

By Road: Aryankavu is well-connected by road to major cities in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. National Highway 744 passes close to the temple, making it accessible by car or bus.



Essential info for devotees



When you visit a temple in Kerala, especially one as popular as the Aryankavu Temple, the key is to be aware of the dos and don'ts. This ensures that you respect the culture and customs without overstepping any boundaries. Following is a breakdown of the essential insights:

Aryankavu Ayyappan Temple timings

The Ayyappan temple opening time is at 04:00 AM. In the morning, the temple remains open until noon. After that, there's a five-hour break, and the temple reopens at 05:00 PM and is

open until 08:00 PM. The priests conduct daily pujas and rituals at designated times during the day.

Dress Code

There are strict guidelines regarding what devotees should wear to the temple. Indian traditional attire like sarees, salwar kameez kurtas, and dhotis are the ideal choices. However, the key is to ensure that devotees wear attire that covers the shoulders and below the knees.

Etiquette And Rules

The first rule is to maintain silence when entering a Hindu temple in Kerala. This is a sign of respect towards the deity and the devotees around. Since constant rituals are happening around the temple, maintaining silence is mandatory. Additionally, follow the rules and regulations about photography, etc. Some parts of the temple might be off-limits when taking pictures.

Things To Do At The Temple



Your visit to the Aryankavu Ayyappa temple involves a variety of experiences that you need to be part of. It usually starts with the darshan after waiting in the queue for hours. The aarti, a fire puja offering, is a mesmerising spectacle. Witnessing the rhythmic chants and the gentle swaying of the lamp filled with ghee (clarified butter) is a truly captivating experience. Depending on your visit's time, seeing that in real-time is an alluring experience.

Ongoing rituals continue inside the temple. You always have the choice to participate in those prayers and rituals. Be it chanting hymns or offering diyas, it builds a spiritual connection that every devotee should experience. The temple is renowned for its powerful blessings. Devotees seeking blessings for good health, prosperity, or overcoming challenges can find solace here.

Highlights Of The Aryankavu Ayyappan Temple



Besides the list of activities to indulge in at the temple, a few highlights set the temple apart from the rest. Ensure that you aren't missing out on witnessing those in real-time. The highlights run beyond the spiritual significance.

- You can learn about the history of the Aryankavu Ayyappan temple in Tamil, but that's not the main aspect to witness. Inside the temple, start by marvelling at the stunning architecture, which is a blend of Kerala and Tamil design. The walls reflect the cultural significance of the place.
- Not just the architectural style, the temple also boasts murals on the walls that depict stories from Hindu mythology. They add to the story, history and aesthetic appeal of the temple
- An intriguing feature of the temple is its location – built approximately 36 feet below the road level. This unique placement adds to the temple's mystique and creates a sense of serene seclusion.

Places To Visit Around Aryankavu Ayyappan Temple

Visitors can explore the charming surroundings after seeking blessings at the Aryankavu Ayyappan Temple.

Thenmala, Achankovil Temple, Palaruvi waterfalls

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Is the Aryankavu Ayyappan Temple the most famous Ayyappa temple?

The Aryankavu Ayyappan Temple happens to be one of the five Ayyappan temples and is equally popular as the rest of the four.

Are there hotels near Aryankavu Ayyappan Temple?

There aren't many solid hotels or resorts near the Aryankavu Ayyappan Temple. However, you can book your accommodation in the nearby cities.

What food to try near the Aryankavu Ayyappan Temple?

There are small and local food joints near the Aryankavu Ayyappan Temple. All of them offer pure vegetarian foods that you can enjoy.

What to buy from Aryankavu Ayyappan Temple?

A few of the local shops outside the Aryankavu Ayyappan Temple offer small trinkets, photos, and souvenirs that you can consider buying to commemorate your visit.

How far is the Aryankavu Ayyappan Temple from Trivandrum?

The temple is located around 85 km from the main city of Trivandrum, so it shouldn't take more than 1-2 hours.

Ref: holyprasadam.com

Aryankavu Sastha Temple

Address:

Aryankavu Dharma Sastha Temple

Thirumangalam Rd, Aryankavu, Puliyarai R.F. Part, Kollam 691309

Presiding Deity:

Sree Sastha

Sub Deities:

Sree Ganapathy, Lord Siva, Nagaraja, Karuppa Swamy

Important Festivals and Days:

Annual Festival in Dhanu, Mandalakalam, Nirmalya Shochanam in Every Month

Temple Timings

THE TEMPLE OPENS AT 5:00 AM

5:00 AM: Nada Thurakkal

6:40 AM: Usha Pooja

12:00 PM: Ucha Pooja

TEMPLE CLOSSES AT 12:30 PM

TEMPLE WILL BE CLOSED BETWEEN 12:30 PM AND

5:00 PM

TEMPLE OPENS AT 5:00 PM

6:45 PM: Deeparadhana

7:45 PM: Athazha Pooja

TEMPLE CLOSSES AT 8:00 PM

History

Aryankavu is renowned for its Ayyappan temple, which is one of the five most significant temples dedicated to Lord Ayyappa in Kerala. The temple, also known as Aryankavu Shastha Temple, portrays Lord Ayyappa as a young boy. The name Aryankavu originates from the fact that Lord Ayyappa is referred to as Tiru Aryan. Nestled amidst forests, the temple is situated on the Trivandrum – Tenkasi National Highway. Similar to Sabarimala, women between the ages of 10 and 50 are not allowed inside the Aryankavu Ayyappa Temple. The rituals and pujas followed at Aryankavu Sastha Temple adhere to Tamil traditions. Within the sanctum sanctorum, one can find idols of Devi, Shiva, and Sastha. A youthful Ayyappa sits in the center, with Devi on the left side and Shiva on the right side. The temple festival is celebrated during the concluding days of the Sabarimala Mandala Kalam. Key festivals observed here include Pandiyan Mudippu, Trikkalyanam, and Kumbhabhishekam. To reach the temple, one can travel via the Kollam – Punalur – Tenkasi road or the Trivandrum – Tenkasi road.

Poojas and their charges

Appanivedhyam അപ്പനിവേദ്യം	Aravana Payasam അരവണ പായസം	Archana അർച്ചന
₹50	₹65	₹15
Ashtadravya Ganapathy Homam അഷ്ടദ്രവ്യ ഗണപതി ഹോമം	Ayilya Pooja ആയില്യ പൂജ	Bhagavathy Seva ഭഗവതി സേവാ
₹500	₹35	₹300

Charadu ചരട് ₹20	Chirappu ചിറപ്പ് ₹200	Dhara - Jalam (Continously) ധാര - ജലം (അപോ രാത്രം) ₹25
Ellu Paayasam എള്ളു പായസം ₹50	Ganapathy Homam ഗണപതി ഹോമം ₹100	Kaathu Kuthu കാത് കുത്ത് ₹25
Kadum Payasam കടും പായസം (ഭഗവതി) ₹45	Kappu Pooja കാപ്പ് പൂജ ₹25	Kettunira കെട്ടു നിറ ₹35
Maala Poojikkal മാല പൂജിക്കൽ ₹20	Maavilakku മാവിലക്ക് ₹25	Mudravadi Pooja മുദ്രവാടി പൂജ ₹25
Muzhukapp മുഴുകാപ്പ് ₹185	Namakaranam നാമകരണം ₹50	Neeranjnam നീരാഞ്ജനം ₹25
Payasam പായസം ₹40	Punyaham പുണ്യാഹം ₹10	Pushpabhishekam പൂഷ്പാഭിഷേകം ₹750
Raktha Pushpanjali രക്ത പൂഷ്പാഞ്ജലി ₹30	Sahasranama Archana സഹസ്രനാമ അർച്ചന ₹40	Swayamvara Archana സ്വയംവര അർച്ചന ₹30
Thakkol Pooja താക്കോൽ പൂജ ₹100	Thala Mundanam തല മുണ്ഡനം ₹25	Thulaabhaaram തൂലാഭാരം (ദ്രവ്യം കൊണ്ട് വരണം) ₹125
Udayada Charthu ഉടയാട ചാർത്ത് ₹15	Vella Nivedyam വെള്ള നിവേദ്യം ₹15	Vidhyarabham വിദ്യാരംഭം ₹50

Ref: tripadvisor.in

Photos













भारतीय डाक
India Post

ET803047255IN IVR:6984803047255
SP RAJAPALAYAM HO <626117>
Counter No:4,30/01/2019,17:24
To:SHASHANK,INDORE
PIN:452009, Sudama Nagar S.O
From:BEARDMEN ,RAJAPALAYAM
Wt:100gms
Amt:70.80(Cash)Tax:10.80

भारतीय डाक
India Post

BPOST RAJAPALAYAM HO <626117>
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Qty:1
Amt:1.00Cash
<Track on www.indiapost.gov.in>
<Dial 1800 266 6868>



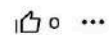


Comments by visitors



Vishnu Raj

New Delhi, India • 107 contributions



Beautiful Temple

Sept 2017 • Family

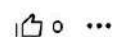
On our way to palaruvi Falls we decided to wander 2 km more to the highway and to reach this place. This is a temple dedicated to Lord Aiyappa . Womens below the age of 8 and above 60 are only allowed to enter.

Written 20 September 2017



Karthik R

Chennai (Madras), India • 7,636 contributions



One of the important Sastha temples

Dec 2016 • Family

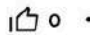
Aryankavu is one of the important Sastha - Lord Ayappa temples. The temple is on the Ghat road - 28 kms from Courtallam. The Dharmasastha temple is reachable as we climb down around 50 steps from the Ghat main road. Male should remove their shirts to enter the Sanctum and female of age 10 to 50 are restricted to go inside. It took around 20-30 minutes for the dharshan and going around the temple. There are lots of shops along the way for domestic shopping.

Written 21 December 2016



mamadathu

Kayamkulam, India • 50 contributions



Shastha temple

Jan 2016 • Friends

Me and my friends visited this place it is near palaruvi waterfalls and kerala border Ladies are not allowed

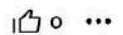


Written 24 March 2016



Wing Commander Hariharan

Bengaluru, India • 29 contributions



Very Peaceful place to remember the Lord and your connectedness with the whole!!

Jan 2016

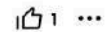
The Aryankavu temple is closer to Tenkasi (Thirunelveli dist) than to - say, Kollam. A very quiet and serene Shastha temple in a very remote but very well connected place. Worth a visit

Written 1 February 2016



oshylu

Mahabalipuram, India • 2,088 contributions



Small one .. Ladies not allowed .. even girls

Aug 2015

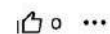
It is a different temple because here only Iyyappan tirukkalyanam celebrated .. It is conducted by chourastra community people of Madurai .. Believing that they were the sammanthi... Till the custom follows .. Ladies and girl not allowed inside this temple .. Away from moolasthanam 50 fts ladies and girls can worship...

Written 14 August 2015



SHNAIR123

Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum), India • 276 contributions



Ayyappa in Teenages ...

Dec 2013 • Family

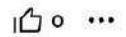
Lord Ayyappa is depicted here as a teenager (young boy). Ayyappa is known as Tiru Aryan and therefore the place got the name Aryankavu. Surrounded by forests, the temple is located on the Trivandrum - Tenkasi National Highway. Just like in Sabarimala, women from the age 10 to 50 are not allowed inside the Aryankavu Ayyappa Temple.

Written 16 December 2013



Sajeed K

Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum), India • 1,047 contributions



Temple by Pandi Raja

Feb 2015 • Solo

This is a wooded temple Located in Aryankavu in Kerala bordering Tamilnadu in Kollam district. It is an "Ayyappa" (The lord of Hindu devotees of south India) temple. Temple is a quiet and clean area and maintained well. The distinction being that the idol was brought by the Pandi Raja of Madurai and not by the Raja of Pandalam. Another unique feature of the temple is that it was built about 35 ft below the road level. This temple has beautiful sculptures and mural paintings.

Written 8 February 2015

YouTube Videos

Aryankavu Sastha temple (7min):

<https://youtu.be/-8-6eydYtbQ?si=BjBxnBpMXsbjh3bW>

Aryankavu Sastha Temple (4 min):

<https://youtu.be/v1j1ABrCCu0?si=9cecygtdZx3cJJU9>

Temple History in Tamil (2 min):

https://youtu.be/L5dBzc_Lo20?si=Aw9p5g526t4gtdGz

Aryankavu Ayyappan Temple (8 min):

https://youtu.be/OcD_E3D2X2c?si=Eoc3qQluog3K69OT

Aryankavu- short video (1 min):

<https://youtu.be/8OVY4n7vDuE?si=xxbgBt56WUm3WwnA>

Aryankavu Sastha Temple - SV Tourism(4 min):

<https://youtu.be/sVfbT5wMROI?si=CNI1jj0qezr8c4Qm>

Aryankavu Temple (9 min):

<https://youtu.be/Op7cbXrUtoE?si=kg2bqSU59c5zgMhi>

Aryankavu Sastha Temple- travelogue (5 min):

<https://youtu.be/ccb57fmSmMU?si=zv6NCPss1w02konU>

Aryankavu Temple- travelogue (9 min):

<https://youtu.be/M5xcwH5ezic?si=ICw7i2uILBgzEF5n>

Aryankavu Sastha Temple- travelogue (21 min):

https://youtu.be/sILBxaAe7SE?si=EJbSEVrv4nO9R_iR

Aryankavu Sastha Temple (4 min):

https://youtu.be/XP_G9rYCWtQ?si=i7cACKiF8dORpAt2

Aryankavu travel vlog (33 min):

<https://youtu.be/YjXqZcdri5E?si=4VU06990SRf6Ybml>

Aryankavu Temple- Kerala DD news (2 min):

<https://youtu.be/VY16U3ssbUM?si=rYVkJGiyCqRxQIVN>

Aryankavu Temple- Vasp vlog (3 min):

https://youtu.be/aX6uOb6fjnA?si=1x9KBbcQGikFW_cp



ॐ स॒ह ना॑ ववतु । स॒ह नो॑ भुनक्तु । स॒ह वी॒र्यं॑ करवावहै । ते॒ज॒स्विना॒वधी॑तमस्तु मा वि॒द्विषा॑वहै ॥ (3)

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Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar

**Achankovil Sri Dharmasastha Temple, Kollam,
Kerala, India**



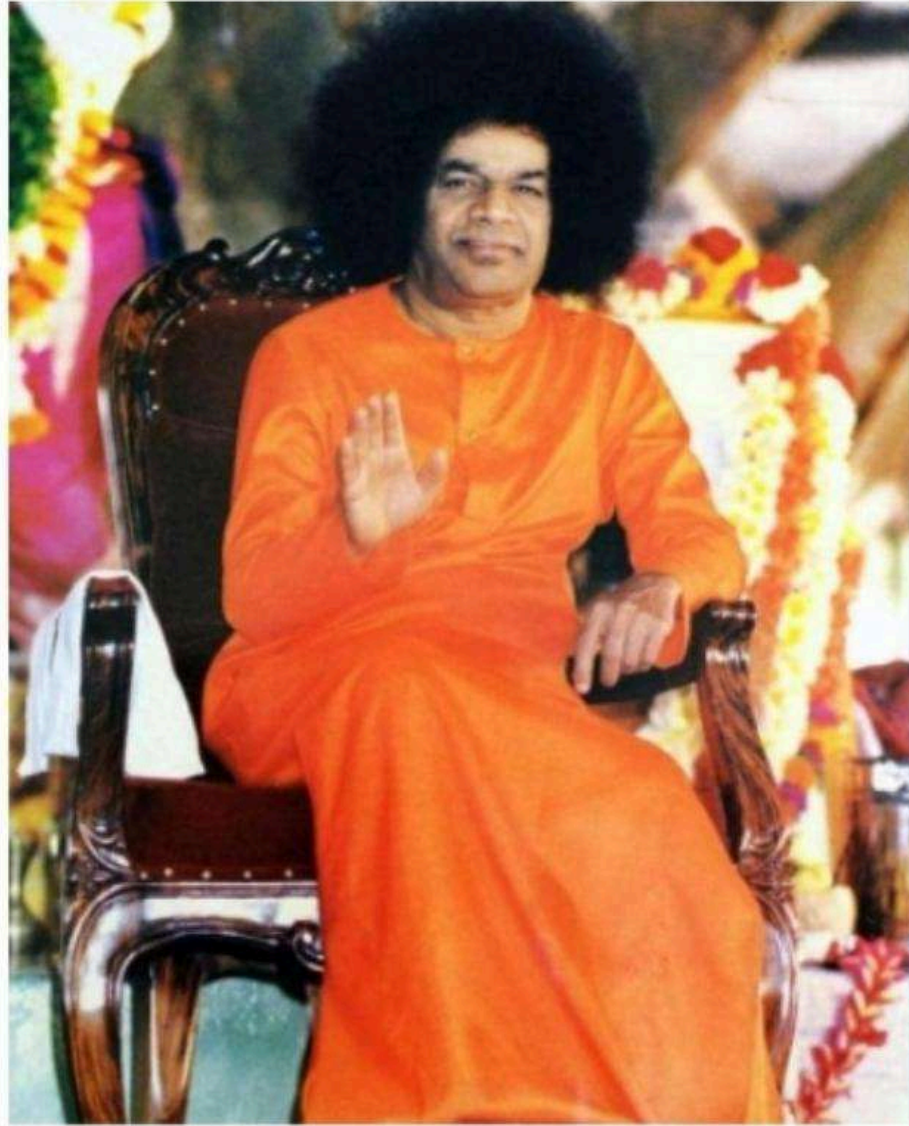
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DEDICATION

**This work is lovingly dedicated at the lotus feet of:
Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba**



**There is only ONE caste -The Caste of Humanity
There is only ONE religion –The Religion of Love
There is only ONE language –The Language of the Heart
There is only ONE God –He is Omnipresent**

.....Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba

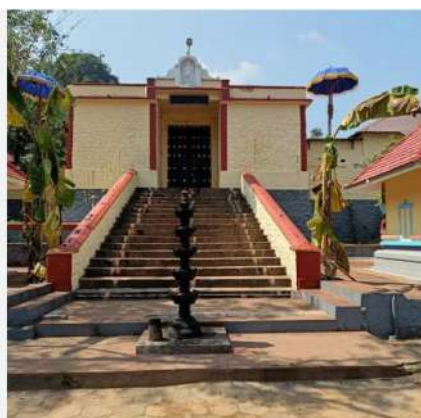
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PREFACE



This free ebook gives briefly info about: “**Achankovil Sri Dharmasastha Temple, Kollam, Kerala, India**”.

The **Achankovil Sastha Temple** is a [Hindu temple](#) located near the banks of the [Achankovil River](#) in the [Kollam district](#) in the state of [Kerala](#). It is one of the five important temples dedicated to [Shasta](#) in Kerala, the others being [Kulathupuzha](#), [Aryankavu](#), [Sabarimala](#) and [Kanthamala](#).^[1] The idol in the temple is believed to have been consecrated by [Parashurama](#).^[2] The temple is known for curing poisonous [snakebites](#).

Details of Temple History, legends and significance, architecture, Timings, festivals, deities, poojas and rituals, their charges, special poojas and their charges, address, map, phone number and how to reach there, significance, where to stay - accommodation, nearby temples and other attractions, contact info, info for devotees, facilities, FAQs, do's and don'ts for devotees, tips for devotees, donation info, similar places, nearby places, comments by visitors..etc are given.

Links to FaceBook videos and YouTube Videos give videos relating to the temple, its legends, festivals, Temple travel vlogs, temple tour,.....etc.

Acknowledgements:

Many of my friends and relatives have actively encouraged me in my attempt to compile this free ebook. I sincerely thank them for their support.

My wife Kala has always encouraged and supported me in all my literary works, sacrificing much of her time. I express my deep appreciation to her.

I have drawn from many references, and Facebook, YouTube as mentioned in the text.

Finally, I express my immense gratitude to Sri Sathya Sai Baba for His Grace and blessings, prompting me to initiate, continue and complete this work.

Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar,
March 8, 2025
Email: tmuliya@rediffmail.com

Ref: Wikipedia

Achankovil Sri Dharmasastha Temple



The temple arch with the sculptures of Shasta and his consorts, Purna and Pushkala, at the centre

The **Achankovil Sastha Temple** is a [Hindu temple](#) located near the banks of the [Achankovil River](#) in the [Kollam district](#) in the Indian state of [Kerala](#). It is one of the five important temples dedicated to [Shasta](#) in Kerala, the others being [Kulathupuzha](#), [Aryankavu](#), [Sabarimala](#) and [Kanthamala](#).^[1] The idol in the temple is believed to have been consecrated by [Parashurama](#).^[2] The temple is known for curing poisonous [snakebites](#). The [Travancore Devaswom Board](#) administers the temple.

Location

The temple is located near the banks of the river [Achankovil](#).^[4] It is situated in the [panchayat](#) of [Aryankavu](#) in the [Kollam district](#) of [Kerala](#).^[1] The temple is situated about 50 km (31 mi) from [Punalur](#) and 85 km (53 mi) from [Kollam](#).

Deities

The principal deity of the temple is [Shasta](#).^[5] He is locally known as "Achankovil Andavan" or "Achankovil Arasan".^{[4][6]} Shasta is depicted as a [Grhastha](#) (householder), along with his two consorts, Purna and Pushkala, on either side.^[7]

[Bhagavati](#), [Maalikapurathamma](#), [Durga](#), [Nagaraja](#), Nagayakshi, [Ganesha](#), [Kartikeya](#), [Karuppu Sami](#), Karuppayi Amma, Cheppanimundan, Chappanimaadan, Madanthevan, Kalamadan, Kochattinarayanan, Singali Bhootathan and Arukola are the subordinate deities.^[8] The back portion of the temple has a [Sarpa Kavu](#), where [Naga](#) is worshipped.

Snakebite treatment

Achankovil temple is known for curing poisonous [snakebites](#),^[7] and the deity is considered a [Maha Vaidya](#) (great physician).^[9] The right palm of the Shasta idol holds *Chandanam* ([sandalwood](#) paste) and [Theertham](#) (holy water), which according to the devotees have medicinal properties.^[10] This is one of the rare temples that opens at night if necessary after the *Athazha Puja*. Those who get bitten by snakes can call for help at any time by ringing the temple bell, and the temple priests will help them.^{[11][7]} The person bitten by the snake is given sandalwood paste as [prasadam](#) and medicine and needs to stay at the temple for three or five days, depending on the severity of the poison.

Festivals

The *Mandala Puja* is one of the important festivals in the temple. It is held every year from the first to the tenth day of the [Malayalam month](#) of [Dhanu](#) (December–January).^[2] *Revathi Puja* is another main festival hosted in the Malayalam month of *Makaram* (January–February). The temple is also one of the important temples in Kerala to conduct the *Therottam* (chariot festival).^[11] *Karuppanoottu* and *Karuppanthullal* are the major attractions during the festival time. The festivals and rituals have similarity to the [Tamil](#) traditions.

Photos





Ref: keralatourism.org

Achankovil Sastha Temple

A forest temple in Kollam, dedicated to Lord Ayyappa, renowned for its healing lore and serene natural surroundings.

In the depths of a lush forest, the Achankovil Temple in Kollam offers a spiritual sanctuary dedicated to Lord Ayyappa. This revered temple is said to have been consecrated by none other than Lord Parasurama, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu himself, adding a profound historical significance to this sacred site.

Achankovil Temple is a notable member of the esteemed Sastha temples, which include other revered sites such as Kulathupuzha, Aryankavu, Sabarimala, and Kanthamala. Pilgrims from far and wide flock to this temple to seek divine blessings and solace. The temple holds a special place in local lore, with many believing it to be a powerful site for healing, particularly in the case of poisonous snake bites - a testament to its mystical reputation.

The journey to Achankovil Temple is as enchanting as the destination itself. Travellers are treated to breathtaking vistas along the way, with the scenic Manalar Waterfalls and the stunning Kumbuvurutty Waterfalls making the trip an unforgettable experience. The cascading waters provide a serene backdrop as visitors traverse the forested paths leading to the temple, enhancing the sense of a spiritual pilgrimage.

As you approach the Achankovil Temple, the tranquil beauty of the forest envelops you, creating a peaceful atmosphere perfect for reflection and devotion. The temple, with its divine ambiance and historical roots, offers not just a place of worship but a profound connection to the spiritual heritage of the region.

Whether you're drawn by faith, the allure of natural beauty, or the promise of adventure, a visit to the Achankovil Temple is sure to leave you with lasting memories of its sacred charm and the stunning landscapes that surround it.

How To Reach

By Bus

Pandalam Bus Station, about 11 km

By Flight

Trivandrum International Airport, around 102 km away

By Train

Mavelikkara Railway Station, about 29 km | Kollam Junction Railway Station, about 56 km away.

Ref: dtpckollam.com

Achankovil Sri Dharmasastha Temple



Achankovil, situated in Kollam district, is one of Lord Ayyappan's principal temples

Achankovil refers to the "shrine of Achan, the supreme deity." Achankovil Sastha Temple is one of the five significant temples in Kerala dedicated to Lord Ayyappan. The other well-known Lord Sastha temples are those at Kulathupuzha, Aryankavu, Sabarimala and Kanthamala. The deity is here depicted as a family man; unlike in other Ayyappan temples, he is shown with his two wives, Pushkala and Purna.

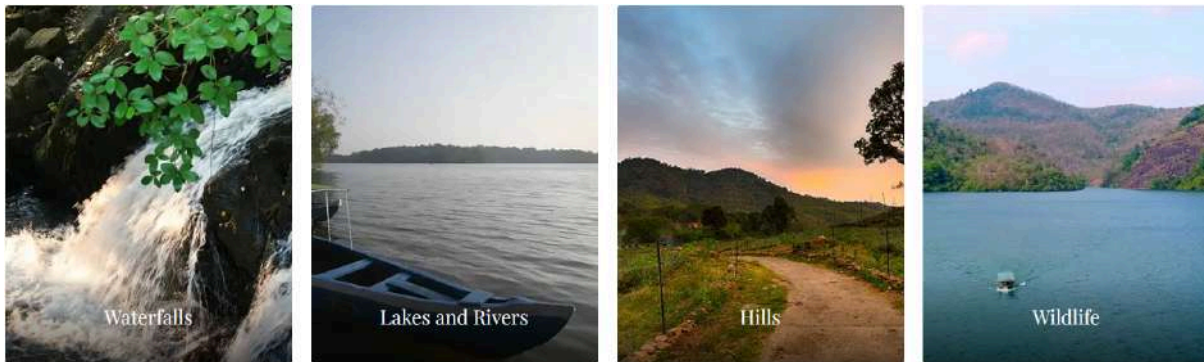
Many people come here in the belief that the temple can heal snake bites. The Ayyappan idol here holds a container of 'theertha', or holy water, and "chandanam", or sandalwood paste, both of which are thought to be effective in treating snake bites. This revered shrine is located next to the lovely Achankovil River inside a dense forest. The temple is situated almost 950 metres above sea level. Having Tamil Nadu across the border means the festivals and rituals held at the Achankovil temple on this side also have Tamil influences.

This temple differs from other Ayyappan temples in that it permits the entry of females over the age of 10 to enter the temple and climb the 18 sacred steps. The temple holds its annual festival for 10 days during the Malayalam month of Dhanu (December–January).

Discover more



Other destinations



Ref: ChatGPT - AI

About Achankovil Sri Dharmasastha Temple, Kollam

Question:

About Achankovil Sri Dharmasastha Temple, Kollam, Kerala:

Temple location .address, contact phone number of Temple office .how to get there..Temple history..legends..architecture..main deity and other deities..daily poojas and rituals ...special poojas ...Festivals..speciality of this Temple.. facilities for devotees.. accommodation etc..do's and don't for devotees..temples nearby..hotels nearby , 3 or 4 comments by visitors to the temple (if available)., online sevas booking facility, donation info and methods of payment including upi address and qr code etc, .

Answer:

Achankovil Sri Dharmasastha Temple, Kollam, Kerala

Achankovil Sri Dharmasastha Temple is one of the Pancha Sastha Temples dedicated to Lord Ayyappa (Dharmasastha). The temple is unique as Ayyappa here is depicted as a grihastha (householder) with his consort and son. It is a highly revered pilgrimage site, especially for devotees undertaking the Sabarimala pilgrimage.

Temple Location & Contact Details

 Address:
Achankovil Sri Dharmasastha Temple,
Achankovil, Kollam District, Kerala – 689692

 Temple Office Contact: +91 475 234 6864

How to Reach Achankovil Temple?

By Road: Connected via Pathanapuram and Punalur; buses and taxis available.

By Train: The nearest railway stations are Punalur (60 km) and Tenkasi (35 km, in Tamil Nadu).

By Air: The nearest airport is Trivandrum International Airport (140 km).

Temple History & Legends

The temple is one of the five important Sastha temples installed by Lord Parasurama.

It is believed that Lord Ayyappa of Achankovil has divine healing powers, especially for snake bites and diseases.

The temple is located in the dense forests of the Western Ghats, near the Achankovil River, adding to its spiritual and natural beauty.

Architecture & Special Features

Built in the traditional Kerala temple style, with a wooden sanctum (Sreekovil).

The temple is surrounded by thick forests, making it one of the most scenic pilgrimage sites.

The idol of Lord Ayyappa holds medicinal sand (Kalabham), believed to have healing powers.

Main Deity & Other Deities

Main Deity: Lord Dharmasastha (Ayyappa), along with his consort (Poorna) and son (Pushkala).

Other Deities: Lord Shiva, Goddess Mahalakshmi, Lord Vishnu, Lord Ganapathi

Daily Poojas & Rituals

The temple follows traditional Kerala-style Tantric rituals dedicated to Lord Ayyappa (Dharmasastha).

Daily Worship Schedule:

- Nirmalyam – Early morning ritual where the deity is awakened.
- Abhishekam (Holy Bathing Ceremony) – Performed using water, milk, sandalwood paste, and sacred Kalabham (medicinal sandal paste).
- Usha Pooja (Morning Pooja) – The first major worship of the day.
- Pantheeradi Pooja – Performed at a specific time when the shadow measures 12 feet (Pantheeradi) in the morning.
- Ucha Pooja (Noon Pooja) – A mid-day offering to Lord Ayyappa.
- Deeparadhana (Evening Ritual with Lamps) – A mesmerizing sight where the entire temple is lit with oil lamps.
- Athazha Pooja (Night Pooja) – The final worship before the temple closes.
- Palliyunarthal (Waking Up Ritual) – Performed the next day to restart the cycle.

Note: Kalabham (medicinal sandal paste) applied to the idol is believed to have healing powers, especially for snake bites and ailments.

Special Poojas & Rituals

Special Offerings for Devotees:

- Kalabham Charthal – Applying sacred sandalwood paste (Kalabham) to the deity.
- Neyyabhishekam – Pouring ghee over the idol as an offering.

- Ganapathi Homam – Fire ritual dedicated to Lord Ganesha for removing obstacles.
- Mrityunjaya Homam – Special havan for health, longevity, and protection from dangers.
- Vidyarambham – Ritual for children's education initiation.
- Sahasranama Archana – Recitation of 1,000 names of Lord Ayyappa with flower offerings.
- Thulabharam – Devotees offer items like bananas, jaggery, or coins equal to their body weight.

These rituals are performed on special occasions or based on devotee requests.

Major Festivals at Achankovil Temple

- Mandala Pooja (November-December) – Important for Sabarimala Pilgrims.
- Makaravilakku Festival (January) – Celebrated with processions and lighting of the Makaravilakku.
- Thiru Utsavam (December-January) – A 10-day annual festival with grand rituals.
- Vishu (April) – New Year festival with Vishukkani Darshanam.

Specialty of Achankovil Temple

- One of the rare temples where Lord Ayyappa is worshipped with his family.
- Kalabham (medicinal sandal paste) applied to the idol is believed to cure ailments and snake bites.
- The Sacred Achankovil River flows near the temple, and its water is considered holy and medicinal.

Facilities for Devotees

- ✓ Annadanam (Free Lunch for Devotees)
- ✓ Drinking Water and Restrooms
- ✓ Shops Selling Pooja Items, Prasadam, and Temple Souvenirs

- ✓ Parking Facilities

Accommodation Near Achankovil Temple

The temple does not provide its own accommodation, but nearby options include:

Nearby Hotels & Lodges

1. KTDC Tamarind, Punalur (60 km) – Budget-friendly
2. Saaral Resort, Tenkasi (35 km) – ★★★
3. Hotel Green Royale, Thenmala (50 km) – Mid-range
4. Sterling Lake Palace, Alappuzha (140 km) – Luxury stay

Do's & Don'ts for Devotees

Do's:

- ✓ Wear traditional attire (Men: Dhoti, Women: Saree/Churidar).
- ✓ Maintain silence and discipline inside the temple.
- ✓ Follow temple timings for darshan and poojas.

Don'ts:

- ✗ Non-Hindus may not be allowed inside the inner sanctum.
- ✗ Avoid leather items, footwear, and mobile photography inside the temple.
- ✗ Do not bring outside food into the temple premises.

Nearby Temples

- Sree Dharma Sastha Temple, Sabarimala (90 km) – The most famous Ayyappa temple.
- Aryankavu Sastha Temple (40 km) – Another important Pancha Sastha Temple.
- Kulathupuzha Sastha Temple (75 km) – Known for Bala Sastha idol.

Visitor Reviews & Comments

★ "A divine and peaceful place, deep inside the forest. The temple's energy is truly unique."
– Rajesh, Kochi

★ "The Kalabham prasadam is powerful. I felt spiritually blessed after my visit." – Anitha,
Chennai

★ "A must-visit for Ayyappa devotees. The Achankovil River and temple location are
breathtaking." – Suresh, Bengaluru

Online Seva Booking & Donation Methods

Currently, online booking for sevas is NOT available. You must visit the temple office for bookings.

How to Make a Donation?

1. Direct Bank Transfer (NEFT/RTGS)

The temple's official bank details are not publicly available.

Call the temple office (+91 475 234 6864) to get the latest details.

2. UPI / QR Code Donations

Some Kerala temples provide Google Pay, PhonePe, or Paytm UPI QR codes at the donation counter.

You may find the QR code displayed at the temple office.

3. Donation at the Temple Office

You can donate cash or cheque at the temple counter.

An official receipt will be provided for your contribution.

4. Postal Money Order / Demand Draft

Some temples accept DDs/Money Orders in favor of the temple trust.

Confirm the payee name and postal details by calling the temple office.

Ref: keralatemples.info

Achankovil Sri Dharmasastha Temple



Achankovil Sastha Temple is a Hindu temple and one of the 108 Sasthalayas, located in Punalur Taluk tehsil of Kollam district in the Indian state of Kerala. An important river named after the locality, Achankovil river, originates near the temple. As in Sabarimala temple, Achankovil temple also has eighteen steps.

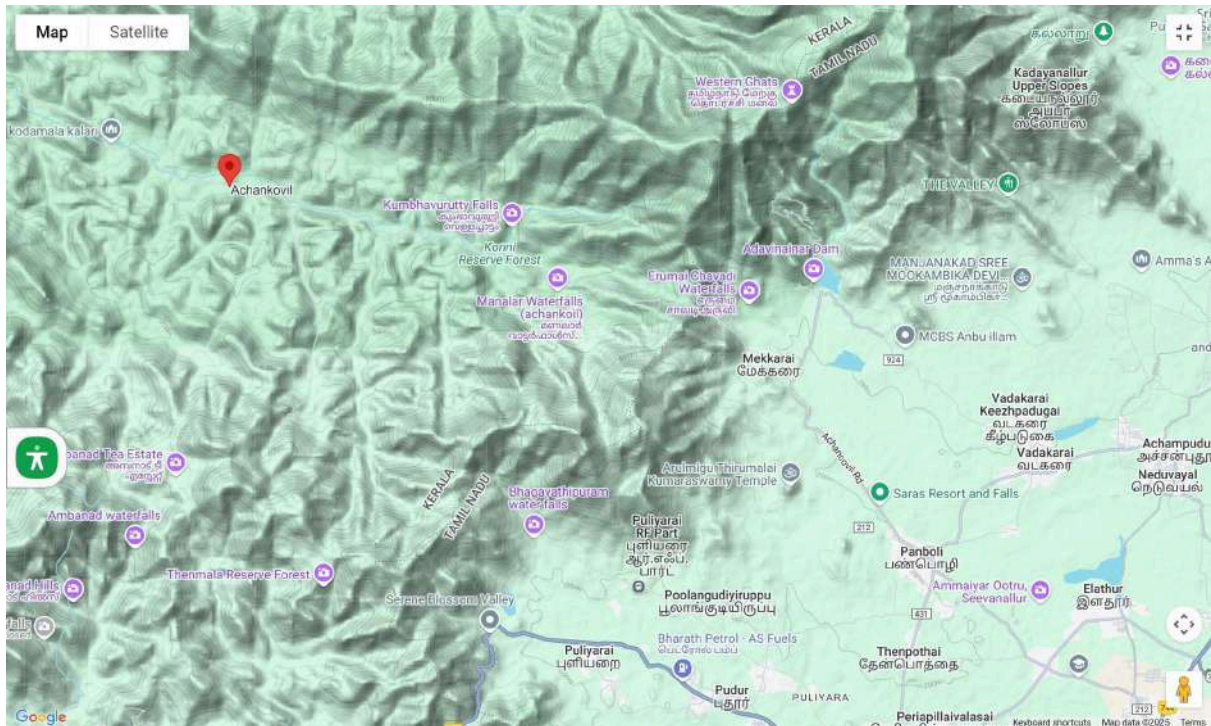
Lord Ayyappa / Aiyanar presides there in the form of grihastha (householder) and the idol faces east. It is believed to have been installed by Lord Parasurama himself. The pratishta of Lord Ayyappa here is quite unique from that of other Sastha shrines in Kerala. The idol is known as Rudraksha sila. He is depicted as a grihasthashrami (one who leads a married life) along with his two consorts Poorna and Pushkala. The temple is famed for curing poisonous Snakebites and thus Ayyappa is often portrayed as a Mahavaidya (great physician). The right palm of the idol always keeps Chandanam (sandalwood paste) and Theertham (sacred waters) which are thought to have medicinal properties.

The temple is located near the banks of Achankovil river in the dense forest regions of eastern Kollam, about 50 km (31 mi) from Punalur, 85 km (53 mi) from Kollam and 62 km (39 mi) from Kulathupuzha to Aryankavu, Thenmala and Shenkottai. There is a route through the forest from Alimukku near Pathanapuram to the temple. The panoramic Kumbuvurutty and Manalar falls are on the route to this shrine.

The festivals and rituals held here have strong Tamil roots.

The Achankovil Sashta Temple is famous for curing poisonous snake bites. According to Hindu belief the Planet Saturn has much effect on humans and bad effects known as 'Sani Dosham' will be removed or the power of its bad effects will be lessened by praying and worshipping at Achankovil DharmaSashta temple. Lord Sashta / Ayyappa is considered as the God governing planet Saturn.

Location Map



Main Deity

Lord Aiyappa

Other Deities

Malikappurathamma, Durga, Nagaraja, Nagayakshi, Ganapathi, Muruga, Karuppaswami, Karuppayi amma, Cheppanimundan, Chappanimaadan, Madanthevan, Kalamadan, Kochattinarayanan, Shingali bhootathan, Nag and Arukola.

Festivals

The Annual festival known as Mandala Pooja is hosted in the Malayalam month of Dhanu (December to January). Revathi pooja (Makaram) January and February, The Therottam (Chariot festival) is held on the 9th day of the Annual festival.

Main Offerings

The Annual festival known as Mandala Pooja is hosted in the Malayalam month of Dhanu (December to January). Revathi pooja (Makaram) January and February, The Therottam (Chariot festival) is held on the 9th day of the Annual festival.

How To Reach

By Air: Trivandrum International Airport is situated 118 km from the temple.

By Rail: Punalur Railway Station is 43.5 km from the Temple.

By Road: Punalur KSRTC Station is 42.7km from the Temple.

Ref: lightuptemples.com

Achankovil Sri Dharmasastha Temple



Address

Achankovil Sri Dharmasastha Temple- Achankovil, Kollam District Kerala 689696

Deity

Ayyappa

Introduction

- **Temple Name:** Achankovil Temple (Achankovil Sri Dharmasastha Temple)
- **Significance:** One of the primary Lord Ayyappa temples in Kerala
- **Location:** Approximately 17 km from Kottarakkara, Kollam District, Kerala
- **Elevation:** 950 meters above sea level
- **Sub-Deities:**
 - Malikappurathamma
 - Durga
 - Nagaraja
 - Nagayakshi
 - Ganapathi
 - Muruga
 - Karuppaswami
 - Karuppayi amma
 - Cheppanimundan
 - Chappanimaadan
 - Madanthevan
 - Kalamadan
 - Kochattinarayanan
 - Shingali bhootathan
 - Arukola
- **Kavu:** A sacred grove behind the temple for worshipping the Naga deity

Puranic Significance

- **Presiding Deity:** Lord Ayyappa (Sree Dharma Sastha)
- **Historical Icon:** Believed to be the oldest vigraha introduced by Parasurama
- **Idol Description:**
 - Known as “Rudraksha Sila”
 - Holds sandalwood glue (Chandan) and sacred water (Tirtha)
 - Known for its healing properties for snake venom
- **Worship:** The temple features various sub-gods as mentioned above.

Beliefs

- **Devotees' Purpose:** Seek fulfillment and healing from poisonous bites.

Special Features

- **Curing Properties:** Famous for treating snake bites
- **Astrological Beliefs:** Praying here is believed to alleviate bad effects of “Sani Dosham” (Saturn’s influence)
- **Steps:** Eighteen steps leading to the sanctum, similar to Sabarimala
- **Unique Idol:** Ayyappa is worshipped as a householder (grihastha) facing east, believed to be installed by Lord Parasurama.

Festivals

- **Thiruvutsavam:** Annual celebration in Malayalam month of Dhanu (December to January) for 10 days
- **Thiruvabharanam:** Holy trimmings parade through Punalur, Aryankavu, Shenkottai, and Tenkasi
- **Pushpabhisheka:** Conducted on the eighth of Makaram
- **Revathi Celebration:** Held in January and February, featuring Karuppanootu offerings
- **Chariot Festival (Therottam):** Includes Karuppanthullal and Chapparam parade, resembling ceremonies in Tamil Nadu

Century/Period/Age

1000-2000 Years old

Managed By

Malabar Devaswom Board.

Nearest Bus Station

Achankovil

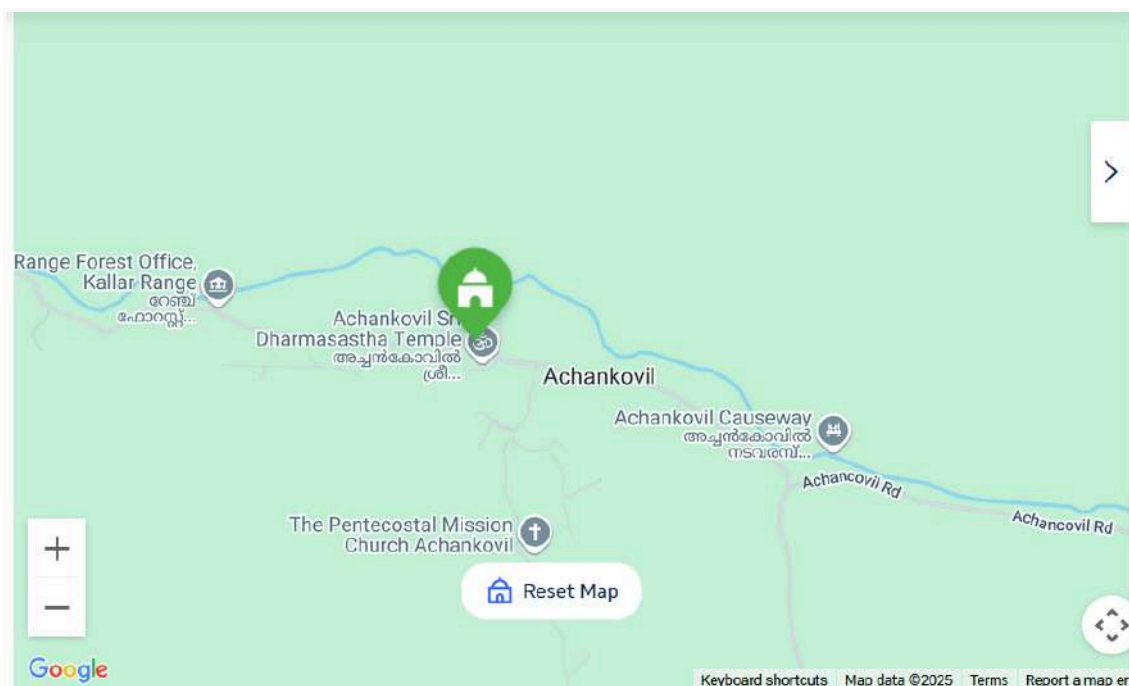
Nearest Railway Station

Mavelikara

Nearest Airport

Thiruvananthapuram

Map



Achankovil Sri Dharmasastha Temple

Achankovil Sastha Temple is one of the 108 Sasthalayas, located in Pathanapuram of Kollam district, installed by Lord Parasurama, in Kerala. It is also one among the famed *Pancha Sastha* temples in Kerala, the other four being Kulathupuzha, Aryankavu, Sabarimala and Erumeli temples. As a temple, Achankovil temple also has eighteen steps. Lord Ayyappa presides there in the form of *grihastha* facing east, with his two consorts *Poorna* and *Pushkala*. He believes in himself. The *pratishta* of Lord Ayyappa here is quite unique from that of other Sastha shrines in Kerala. The temple is famed for curing poisonous Snakebites and thus Ayyappa is often portrayed as a *Mahavaidya* (great physician). The right palm of the idol always keeps *Chandanam* (Sandalwood) and *Theertham* (sacred water) which is thought to have medicinal properties.

The temple holds a number of **sub-deities** like Malikappurathamma, Durga, Nagaraja, Nagayakshi, Ganapathi, Muruga, Karuppaswami, Karuppayi amma, Cheppanimundan, Chappanimaadan, Madanthewan, Kalamadan, Kochattinarayanan, Shingali bhootathan and Arukola. The back portion of the temple has a *Kavu* where the Naga (serpent) deity is worshipped for the welfare and sake.

Festivals

The annual festival and Mandala pooja is hosted in the Malayalam month of Dhanu (December to January) for 10 days and celebrated in grand style. The Thiruvabharanam procession to the temple via Punalur, Aryankavu, Shenkottai and Tenkasi is another attraction. Pushpabhisheka is conducted on 8th of Makaram. Revathi festival is hosted during the months of January and February. The main offering of the deity is Karuppanootu to appease Karuppaswami, a great friend of Ayyappa. The Therottam (chariot festival), Karuppanthullal and Chapparam procession held on the 9th day of festival is very much similar to the rituals in Tamil Nadu.

Transportation

The temple is located near the banks of Achankovil river in the dense forest regions of eastern Kollam, about 50 km (31 mi) from Punalur, 85 km (53 mi) from Kollam and 62 km (39 mi) from Kulathupuzha via Aryankavu, Thenmala and Shenkottai. There is a route through the forest from Alimukku near Pathanapuram to the temple. The panoramic Kumbuvurutty and Manalar falls are on the route to this shrine.

Distances to the temple from various places

- Thiruvananthapuram:(124 km) via Nedumangad – Kulathupuzha – Thenmala – Chenkottai

- Kollam:(85 km) via Kottarakkara – Punalur
- Pathanapuram:(45 km) via Konni – Achankovil road
- Kulathupuzha:(63 km) via Thenmala – Aryankavu, Shenkottai
- Konni:(41 km) via Kalleli – Kadiyar – Uliyanad – Mannarappara – Thura
- Punalur:(43 km) via Kumaramkudy-Mullumala route, but the route is not in a good condition.

Railway: The nearest railway stations are at Thenmala, Kottarakkara and Punalur.

Airports: Thiruvananthapuram international airport is about 140 km and Cochin international airport about 180 km.

Contact

Achankovil Sri Dharmasastha Temple,
Achankovil Road, Kollam District, Kerala,
India, Pincode – 689699.

Ref: yappe.in

Achankovil Sri Dharmasastha

Timings, address

Saturday open from 05:00 AM to 02:00 PM

[Hindu temple Tourist attraction](#)

34RC+PJV, Achankovil, Kerala 689696, India

About

Achankovil Sri Dharmasastha Temple is a hindu temple and tourist attraction located in Achankovil, Kerala. The average rating of this place is 4.70 out of 5 stars based on 3156 reviews. The street address of this place is 34RC+PJV, Achankovil, Kerala 689696, India. It is about 7.12 kilometers away from the Bagavathipur railway station.

FAQs

Where is Achankovil Sri Dharmasastha Temple located?

Achankovil Sri Dharmasastha Temple is located at 34RC+PJV, Achankovil, Kerala 689696, India.

What is the contact number for Achankovil Sri Dharmasastha Temple?

The contact number for Achankovil Sri Dharmasastha Temple is +91 89436 31303

What is the off day for Achankovil Sri Dharmasastha Temple?

Achankovil Sri Dharmasastha Temple is 7 days open between 05:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

What is the nearest railway station from Achankovil Sri Dharmasastha Temple?

[Bagavathipur railway station](#) is the nearest railway station to Achankovil Sri Dharmasastha Temple. It is nearly 7.12 kilometers away from it.

What people say about Achankovil Sri Dharmasastha Temple

Abhilash Abhi 25 months ago

Achankovil Shastha Temple, or the Dharmasastha Temple, is one among the five important temples dedicated to Lord Ayyappa in Kerala. The temple is unique for its idol known as Rudraksha sila in which Lord Sastha is depicted as a 'grihasthashrami'. Ayyappa leads the Grihastha Ashrama life here, depicted as a family man or leads married life here. He is depicted along with his two wives – Purna and Pushkala. It is believed that the idol here was installed by Parashurama. This temple is famous for curing poisonous snake bites. The left hand of the idol of Ayyappa at Achankovil Shastha Temple always holds 'Chandan' (sandalwood paste) and Theertha (holy water). The Chandan and Theertha are considered to have medicinal properties to cure snake bites. You can buy the holy water as Rs, 20 per litre at the temple counter. The temple is located near the banks of Achankovil river in the dense forest regions of eastern Kollam, easily accessible from Thenmala and Shenkottai.

AKR 14 months ago

Good ambience for a temple. No rush (on the weekend day I visited).
Saw peacocks roaming in the temple compound.
The sacred grove area is very refreshing.
Enough parking space in front of the temple.

Raj Kumaran 23 months ago

Way to this temple is like to heaven, almost a hill trip of 20 kms into the forest and roads are really good. Diver who doesn't have hill drive experience should avoid. And finally temple will be open till 12.30 afternoon and will be opened again at 5 pm in the eve.

Ref: FaceBook page: Achankovil Sree Dharmasastha Temple

Photos



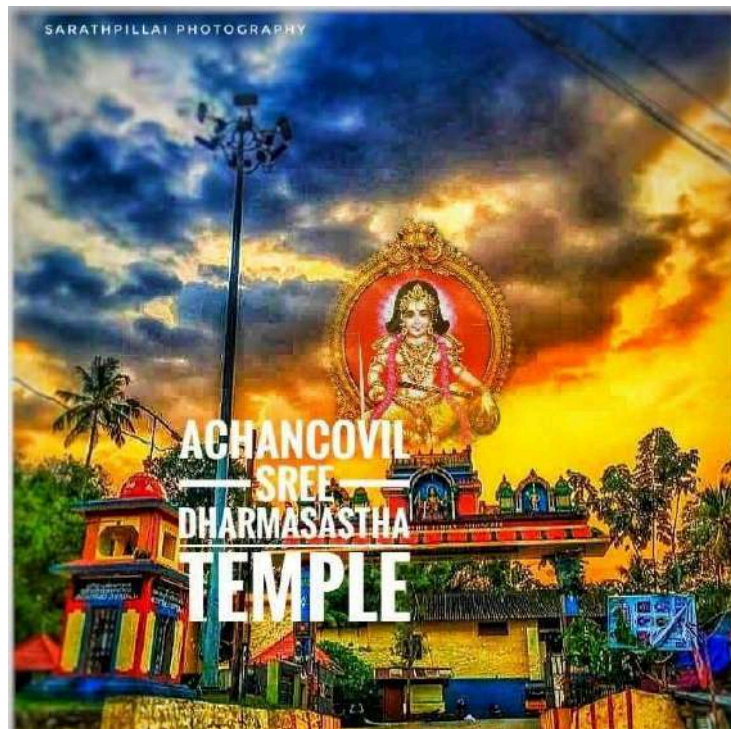


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തെക്കെത്ത്
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കിളികൊല്ലൂർ . കൊല്ലം
6/2/2025 . 8pm

ദക്ഷിണേന്ത്യയിലെ
സംഗീത
വിസ്മയം!..

SHAN LOGO BEATS
PRESENTS
LOGO BEATS
GAMMELA

THODUPUZHA
LOGO BEATS
ഗാനമേള
SUPER MEGAHIT GAMMELA

ഈ തരംഗം പ്രദർശനത്തിന് മുഖേന, ഈ വിഷയം മുഖേനയാണ്

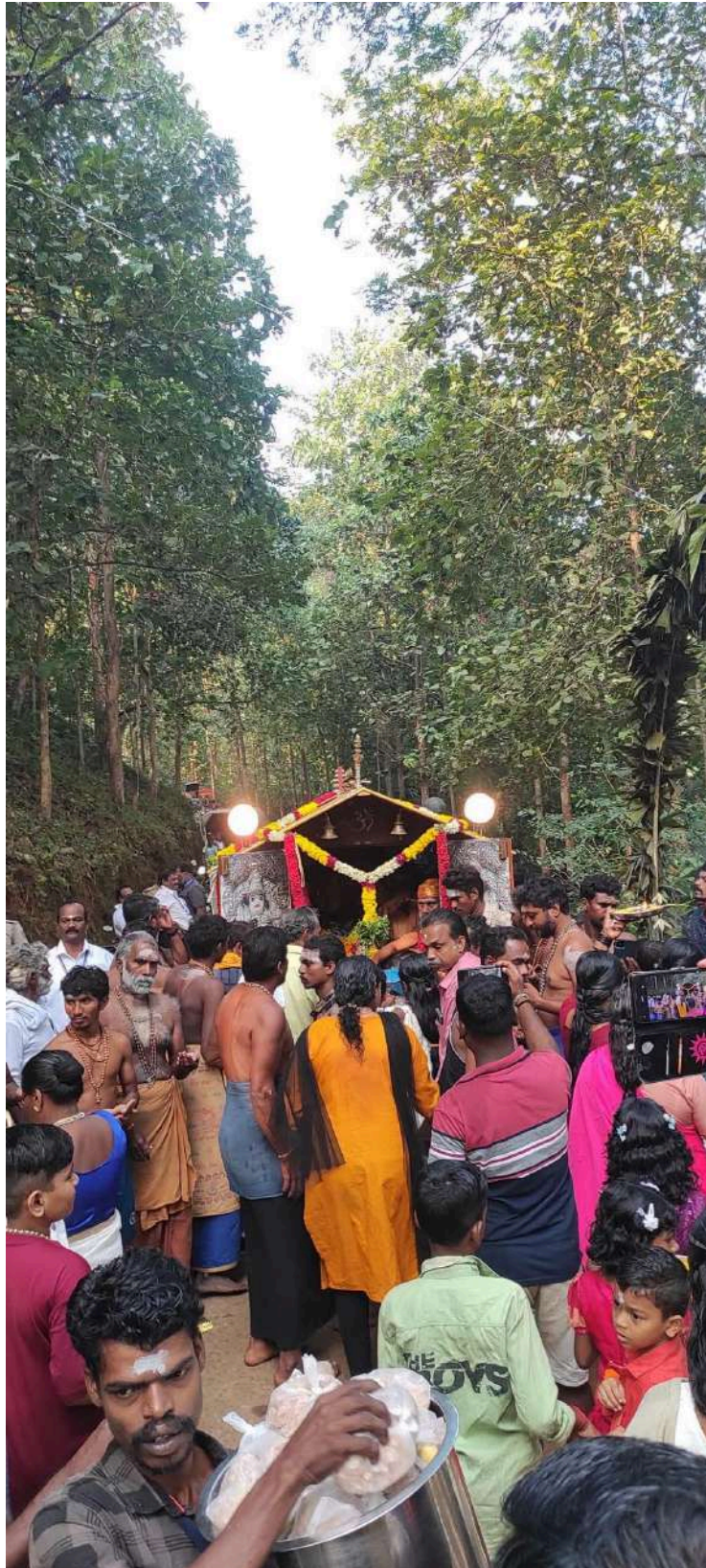
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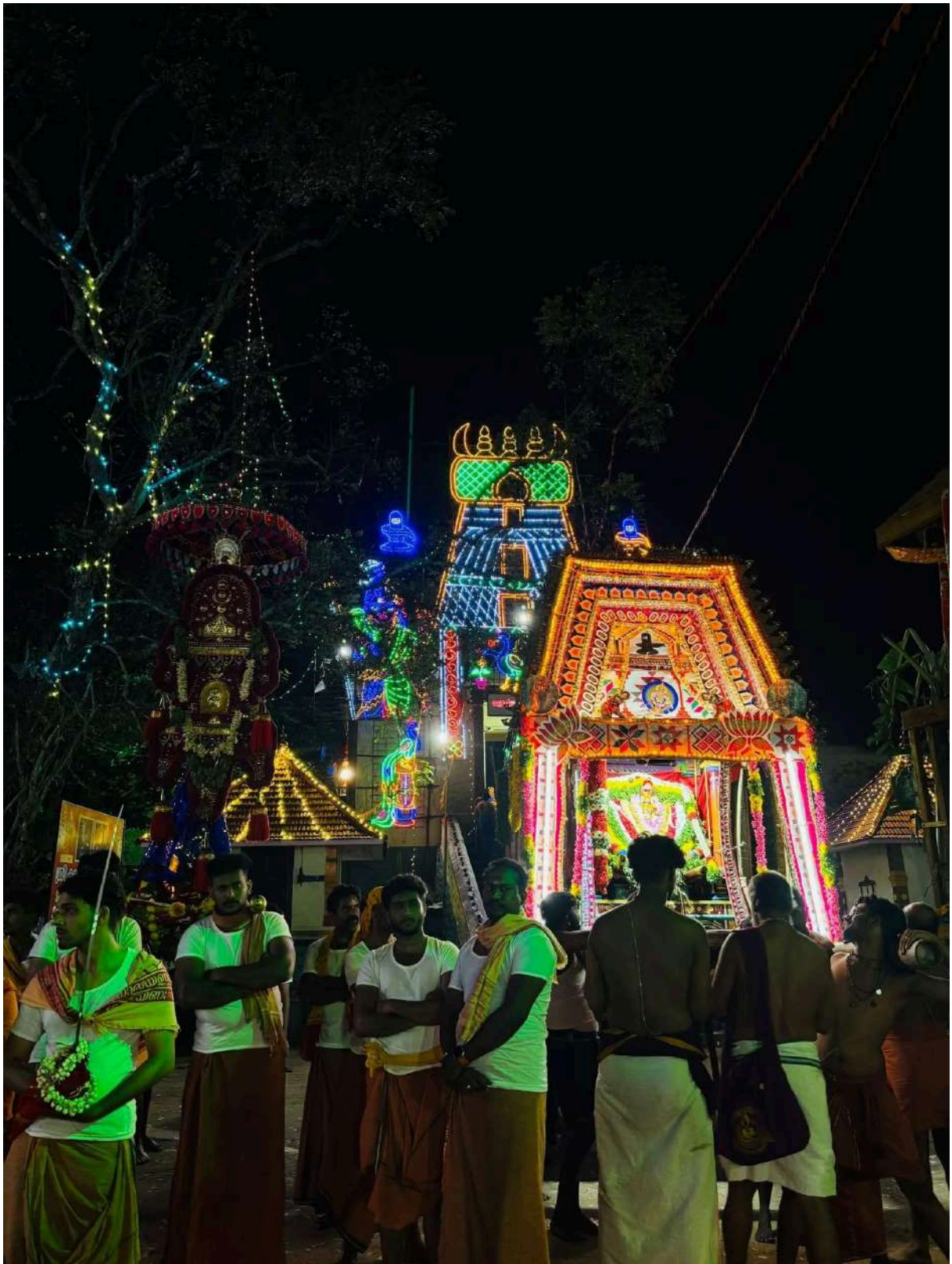








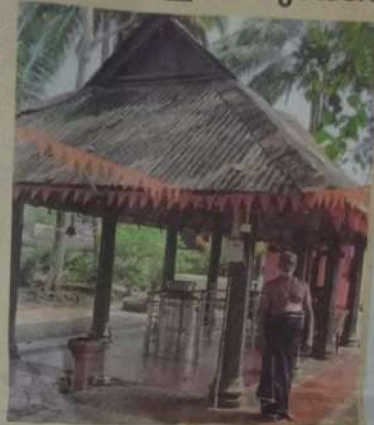








കാബായൂർ
ബി. പ്രഭാകർ

[illegible]

സംഗ്രഹത്തിൽ കുറച്ച് സ്ഥലം കണ്ടു.

യഥാർത്ഥം വേർതിരിയുന്നതിനെക്കുറിച്ചുള്ള
 അറിവ് സാധിക്കാത്തതിനാൽ, അതിനുള്ള
 സാധ്യതയെക്കുറിച്ച് സാധാരണയായി
 പലപ്പോഴും അനുമാനത്തിൽ കയറാ
 തന്നെ. പക്ഷെ, പലപ്പോഴും പല
 കാര്യങ്ങൾ കൈവരിക്കാൻ ഇ
 സമയത്ത് അപകടം ഉ
 ള്ളതായിരുന്നു.

കേന്ദ്രത്തിൽ അധികൃതന്മാർ
 കേന്ദ്രം കൈവരിക്കാൻ തുടങ്ങി
 പക്ഷെ, അതിനുള്ള സാധ്യത
 അതിനുള്ള കേന്ദ്രത്തിൽ കൈ
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 ള്ളതായിരുന്നു.

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 വരിക്കാൻ അപകടം ഉ
 ള്ളതായിരുന്നു.

പിന്നിൽ ഉറഞ്ഞുതുങ്ങുന്ന വാളും വേലുകൊണ്ടായി അനുപരണമായി എത്തിയവരോടൊത്ത് ഉറഞ്ഞുതുങ്ങുമ്പോൾ റാത്രിയുടനീളമായി ഭരതവും അന്നിരിക്കുന്നു.

[illegible]



FB videos

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1EA4x614tb/>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1A5R5EUc1q/>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1FPkLhcHmg/>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/19E189w6Ke/>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/16EWBuBQeh/>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/12FYXMS4V1f/>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1DyEa5sv8z/>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1BQzG91HSo/>

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<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1AvMc3BUwq/>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/18ek12GT9g/>

YouTube Videos

Achankovil Sri Dharmasastha Temple (5 min): <https://youtu.be/QyPFyEOzyMw>

Achankovil Temple (3 min): <https://youtu.be/wzi9PwvFDIQ>

Achankovil Temple history (4 min): https://youtu.be/JSlt5268H_c

Achankovil Temple - Vasanth TV (19 min): <https://youtu.be/E2uQYg87mY0>

Achankovil Temple (6 min): <https://youtu.be/0ZuQ1ZU7gFs>

Road trip from Punalur to Achankovil Temple (5 min): <https://youtu.be/CLozCXZcvnM>

Snake bite healing - Achankovil Temple (22 min): https://youtu.be/hUtHc_foUOY

Achankovil Temple story - Visram TV (2 min): <https://youtu.be/8pTtjFsjiY>

Achankovil Temple - Travel story (5 min): <https://youtu.be/lyfmzGqwLMY>

Achankovil Temple (6 min): https://youtu.be/HtSu4_FZzkM

Achankovil Temple - KSRTC Vlog (12 min): <https://youtu.be/UfCbDDRIf0>

Achankovil Ayyappan (1 min): <https://youtu.be/nBoRp8--s2g>

Kollam to Tenkasi - Telangana tourist (28 min): <https://youtu.be/jAOEAhuzWZg>

Devotional bhajan (3 min): <https://youtu.be/EkuVDnz2hso>

Achankovil Temple - Amritha TV (7 min): https://youtu.be/VsU4D_I5NM4



ॐ स॒ह ना॑ ववतु । स॒ह नौ॑ भुनक्तु । स॒ह वी॒र्यं॑ करवावहे । तेज॑स्विना॒वधी॑तमस्तु मा वि॒द्विषा॑वहे ॥ (3)

ॐ शान्तिः॒ शान्तिः॒ शान्तिः॑ ॥ (3)

Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar



Sri Dharma Sastha Temple, Sabarimala, Kerala



Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar



Sri Dharma Sastha Temple, Sabarimala, Kerala

Compiled by

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Cryogenics Section,

Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Trombay, Mumbai, India

and

Centre for Advanced Technology, Indore 452013, India

Dedication

This work is lovingly dedicated at the lotus feet of:

Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba



There is only ONE caste -The Caste of Humanity

There is only ONE religion –The Religion of Love

There is only ONE language –The Language of the Heart

There is only ONE God –He is Omnipresent

.....Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba

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PREFACE



This free ebook is a compilation of information on the famous Sri Dharma Sastha Temple, Sabarimala, Kerala. Here, information about the temple with reference to its history, legends, architecture, spiritual importance, famous Makara vilakku (or Makara jyoti), pooja timings, rates for different offerings, special festivals, methods of worship, main deity and other deities, how to reach there, pilgrim facilities, online booking of poojas, nearby places to see, temple activities etc are given (See pages 6 to 33).

From page 33 to 93, very good photos of the temple, activities connected with the temple etc. are shown.

Links to FB videos and YouTube videos are given on page 94 and 95 respectively. These videos give detailed information on the temple, its history, activities, stotras, bhajans etc.

Acknowledgements:

Many of my friends and relatives have actively encouraged me in my attempt to compile this free ebook. I sincerely thank them for their support.

My wife Kala has always encouraged and supported me in all my literary works, sacrificing much of her time. I express my deep appreciation to her.

I have drawn heavily from many references, viz. Wikipedia, Official website of the temple, and associated YouTube videos etc.

Finally, I express my immense gratitude to Sri Sathya Sai Baba for His Grace and blessings, prompting me to initiate, continue and complete this work.

M. Thirumaleshwar,

January 22, 2022

Email: tmuliya@rediffmail.com

Ref: Wikipedia

The Sabarimala temple

The Sabarimala Temple is a temple complex located at Sabarimala hill inside the Periyar Tiger Reserve in the Perinad Village, Pathanamthitta district, Kerala, India.[1][2] It is one of the largest annual pilgrimage sites in the world with an estimate of over 40 to 50 million devotees visiting every year.[3][4][5][6] The temple is dedicated to a Hindu Brahmachari (Celibate) deity Ayyappan also known as Dharma Shasta, who according to belief is the son of Shiva and Mohini, the feminine incarnation of Vishnu.[7] The traditions of Sabarimala are a confluence of Shaivism, Vaishnavism, and other Śramaṇa traditions.

Sabarimala Temple	
	
Swami Ayyappa Temple	
Religion	
Affiliation	Hinduism
District	Pathanamthitta
Find	Lord Ayyappa in a yogic meditation
Festivals	Mandalam Makaravilakku, Makara Sankranti (14th January)

Location	
Location	Sabarimala
State	Kerala
Country	India
Architecture	
Type	Kerala Architecture (Traditional Kerala Vastu Shastra)
Creator	As per tradition Vishwakarma, Pandalam King Rajasekhara, (sculptor) is believed to be Parashurama
Completed	Unknown, The temple site was many decades older
Elevation	1,260 m (4,134 ft)

The temple is situated on a hilltop amidst eighteen hills at an altitude of 1260 m (4,134 ft) above sea level, and is surrounded by mountains and dense forests. The dense forest, part of the Periyar Tiger Reserve, around the temple is known as Poongavanam. Temples exist in each of the hills surrounding Sabarimala. While functional and intact temples exist at many places in the surrounding areas like Nilakkal, Kalaketty, and Karimalai, remnants of old temples survive to this day on remaining hills.

In response to a PIL filed in 1991, the Kerala High Court had judged that the restriction of entry of women ages 10–50 to the temple was in accordance with the usage prevalent from time immemorial, and it directed the Devaswom Board to uphold the customary traditions of the temple and also concluded that "since there is no restriction between one section and another section or between one class and another class among the Hindus in the matter of entry to a temple (Sabarimala) whereas the prohibition is only in respect of women of a particular age group and not women as a class."[8] However, On 28 September 2018, the Supreme Court of India, in a 4-1 majority decision (4 men and 1 woman judicial panel), overturned the ban on the entry of women. But the lone woman judge, Indu Malhotra noted in her dissenting judgement that "what constitutes an essential religious practice is for the religious community to decide" and not a matter that should be decided by the courts. She added that "notions of rationality cannot be invoked in matters of religion by courts".[9][10] The Chief Justice, Dipak Misra, stated that the selective ban on women was not an "essential part" of Hinduism, and instead a form of "religious patriarchy". Justice Dhananjaya

Y. Chandrachud stated that the ban "stigmatises" and "stereotypes" women, while "placing the burden of men's celibacy" on them. After the supreme court verdict, the southern state of Kerala had witnessed huge violent protests and mass rally's by nearly the whole population of Kerala and women were also highly active participants in this movement. Devotees have filed around 65 review petitions against the 28 September 2018 order. Normally the Supreme Court of India will never accept a review petition against its own order. However, considering the facts and circumstances of the matter, the Supreme Court has accepted the review petition and decided to hear the proceeding in an open court. After Completion of the hearing in February 2019, the Court ordered under the new Chief Justice Mr. Ranjan Gogoi, to refer the matter to a big bench comprising 7 judges to reconsider the decision of 28 September 2018.

The temple is open for worship only during the days of Mandala Pooja (approximately 15 November to 26 December),[11] Makaravilakku or "Makara Sankranti" (14 January) and Maha Thirumal Sankranti (14 April), and the first five days of each Malayalam month. The pilgrimage includes a unique tradition, that of offering prayer at a mosque of Vavar, a Muslim devotee of Ayappan.[12]

Origins

The worship of Shasta forms part of the ancient history of south India.[13] At Sabarimala, the deity is worshipped as Ayyappan. The shrine of Sabarimala is an ancient temple. It is believed that the prince of Pandalam dynasty, an avatar of Shasta, meditated at Sabarimala temple and became one with the divine. The place where the prince meditated is the Manimandapam.

There are many Shasta temples in South India and across the globe.[14] As per tradition, the Shasta temple at Sabarimala is one of the five Shasta temples founded by Lord Parasurama, an avatar of Lord Vishnu. The other Shasta temples in this group of five includes the Ayyappan Temples:[15][unreliable source?] at Kulathupuzha, where the Shasta appears as a Balaka or child; at Aryankavu where the lord appears as a Brahmachari or young man; at Achankovil Shastha Temple, where the lord leads the Grihastha Ashrama life here and at Sabarimala, where the lord is depicted in the Vanaprastha as a Naistika Brahmachari or unmarried celibate; at Ponnambala Medu the lord appears as a "makaravilaku".[16][unreliable source?]

In 1821, the kingdom of Pandalam was added to Travancore. 48 major temples including the Sabarimala temple were also added to Travancore.

The temple

Sabarimala Picture gallery

The Sannidhanam (main temple) is built on a plateau about 40 feet high.[17]

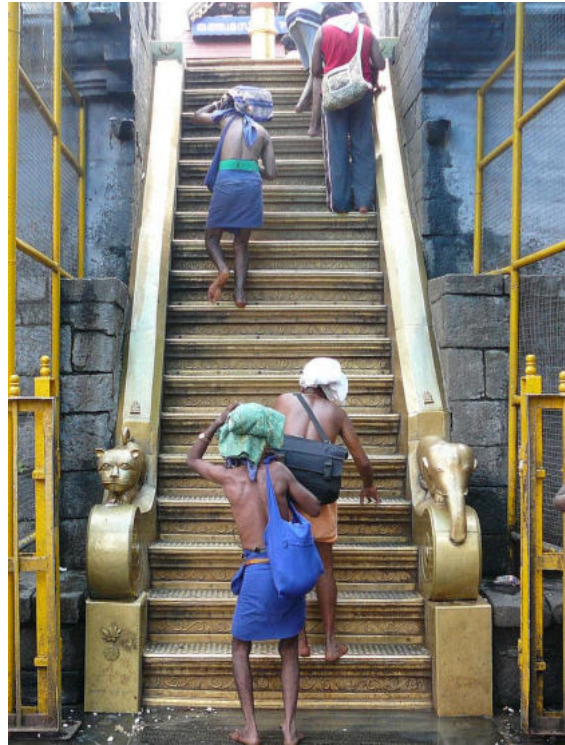
The temple was rebuilt after arson and vandalism in 1950.[19] No charges were brought[20] and the earlier stone image of the deity was replaced by a panchaloha (an alloy from five metals) idol, about 1 and half feet.



Thirusannidhanam



Sabari Peedam



Pathinettampadi



Garba Gudi

The Sannidhanam (main temple) is built on a plateau about 40 feet high.[17]
 The temple was rebuilt after arson and vandalism in 1950.[19] No charges were brought[20]
 and the earlier stone image of the deity was replaced by a panchaloha (an alloy from five
 metals) idol, about 1 and half feet.

The temple consists of a sanctum sanctorum with a gold-plated roof and four golden finials
 at the top, two mandapams, the balikalpura which houses the altar. In 1969, the flag staff
 (dhvajam) was installed.[21]

The shrine of Kannimoola ganapathi prathishta is south-west to The Sreekovil of the Sannidhanam. Devotees offer part of the broken coconut (Neythenga) to the fireplace (Azhi). Ganapathi homam is the main offering.[18][unreliable source?]

The Pathinettu thripadikal or the 18 sacred steps is the main stairway to the temple. As per the custom followed, no pilgrim without "Irumudikettu" can ascend the 18 sacred steps. In 1985, the 18 steps were covered by Panchaloha. The northern gate is open for those who do not carry an "Irumudikettu", as observed in the Kerala High Court judgement of 1991.[22]

The temples of Lord Ayyappan's trusted lieutenants Karuppu Sami and Kadutha Sami are positioned as his guards (kaval) at the foot of the holy 18 sacred steps.

The temple of Maalikapurathamma, whose importance is almost on par with Lord Ayyappa, is located a few yards from Sannidhanam. It is believed that the Lord Ayyapan had specific instructions that he wanted Malikappurath Amma, on his left side. Prior to the fire disaster, there was only a Peeda Prathishta (holy seat) at Malikappuram. The idol of Malikappurath Amma was installed by Brahmasree Kandararu Maheswararu Thanthri. The Devi at Malikappuram holds a Sankh, Chakram and Varada Abhya Mudra. Now the idol is covered with a gold Golaka. The temple also was reconstructed in the last decade and now the conical roof and sopanam is covered with gold.[23]

It is believed that Maalikapurathamma worshipped is the daughter of Cheerappanchira panicker who taught Kalaripayattu to Lord Ayyappa. Cheerappanchira, which is situated about 100 km from Sabarimala holds many rights in Sabarimala, such as to conduct fireworks at Sabarimala, to light Nilavilak and ceremonial lamps at the shrine of Malikapurathamma at Sabarimala, collect half the coconuts given by devotees at Malikapurathamma shrine at Sabarimala. There is also a Mukkalvetti Ayyappa temple at Cheerappanchira which hold 3/4 power of Lord Ayyappa and rest in Sabarimala.[24][25]



Nagarajav Shrine at Sabarimala

The shrine of the Lord of snakes, Nagarajav is placed adjacent to the malikappuram temple. Pilgrims after the Darshan of Ayyappa and Kannimoola Ganapathi, make their darsan and give offerings to Nagarajav.

Manimandapam, is the place where Ayyappan Jeeva samadhi [Arya kerala jeevasamadhi].[23]

The Sabarimala temple complex includes Pampa Ganapathi temple, Nilakal Mahadeva temple and Palliyara Bhagavathi temple. The Nilakal Mahadeva temple and Palliyara Bhagavathi temple is as old as the Shasta temple and the deities are worshipped as the parents of Lord Ayyappa. Ganapathi temple at Pampa has Pampa Maha Ganapathi and Athi Ganapathi (lit. old ganapathy), sreekovil where the idol from the first Ganapathy temple is worshipped. Sabari Peedam has a temple of Rama and Hanuman also.[citation needed]

Worship

Mandala kaalam

The pilgrimage to Sabarimala starts from the first day of Vrischika month of Malayalam year (month of Scorpio) and ends on the 11th day of Dhanu month (the Month of Sagittarius). This season of 41-days pilgrimage is known as Mandala kalam (season) . The season is in the months of December and January.[26]

Prasadam



Aravana Payasam

The prasadam at Sabarimala temple is Aravana payasam and Appam. These are prepared by using rice, ghee, sugar, jaggery etc. The rice needed to prepare the prasadam at Sabarimala temple is supplied by Chettikulangara Devi Temple, the second largest temple under the Travancore Devaswom Board situated at Mavelikkara. The Chief Commissioner, Travancore Devaswom Board said that the board has appointed Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore as a consultant for providing technical guidance to ensure the quality of Aravana, Appam and other prasadam preparations at Sabarimala temple.[27]

Harivarasanam

Harivarasanam is recited before closing the temple door every night. The Harivarasanam prayer, which is sung at Sabarimala is a Urakkupattu. It is composed by Kambangudi Kulathur Srinivasa Iyer in Sanskrit. It is said that Srinivasa Iyer used to recite the composition after the Athazha Puja, standing in front of the shrine of Ayyappa in the main temple. With the efforts of Swami Vimochanananda, it came to be accepted as the lullaby by

the Tantri and Melshanthi. The composition has 352 letters, 108 words in 32 lines in 8 stanzas.[28]

Though there have been many versions of this song sung by many renowned vocalists, the temple plays the rendition by K. J. Yesudas, composed by the renowned music director G. Devarajan, which is in the Madhyamavathi raga of Indian Carnatic music.[29]

Neyyabhishekam

This significant ritual involves pouring sacred ghee brought by pilgrims in their Pallikettu or Irumudi (a two compartment bag made of handwoven cotton cloth used to carry the offerings for Sabarimala Temple carried on their heads) on the idol of Lord Ayyappa. It symbolically means the merging of Jeevatma with Paramatma. While a red-colored irumudi is used by a pilgrim on his first journey as a Kanni Ayyappan to Sabarimala, others use navy blue till third year and thereafter saffron colored irumudi.

Makara Vilakku

Lord Rama and his brother Lakshmana met Sabari, a tribal devotee, at Sabarimala. Sabari offered the Lord fruits after tasting them. But the Lord accepted them gladly and whole-heartedly. The Lord then saw a divine person doing tapasya. He asked Sabari who it was. Sabari said it was Shasta. Rama walked towards him. Shasta stood up and welcomed the Prince of Ayodhya. The anniversary of this incident is celebrated on Makara Vilakku day. It is believed that on Makara Vilakku day, Lord Dharma Sastha stops his tapasya to bless his devotees. The day is also called Makara Sankranti.

Tattvamasi

The most important message written on the temple facade is one of the four Mahāvākyas of Advaita or the non-dualistic school of philosophy. Tat Tvam Asi, the 3rd of four Mahavakyas which in Sanskrit translates to "Thou Art That" is the principal philosophy that governs the temple and pilgrimage. As the pilgrimage is symbolic for the journey to self-realisation that all living beings possess the essence of Brahman, pilgrims refer to each other as Swami, acknowledging their divinity.[citation needed]

It means, in short, you are part of the Paramatma which is the quintessence of Advaita philosophy.[citation needed]

The history behind the worshipping methods

The customs of the pilgrims to Sabarimala are based on five worshipping methods; those of Shaivites, Shaktists and Vaishnavites. At first, there were three sections of devotees – the devotees of Shakti who used to meet to worship their deity[citation needed], the devotees of Vishnu who followed the strict penance and continence, and the devotees of Shiva who partly followed these two methods. Another name of Ayyappa is Shasta. All these can be seen merged into the beliefs of pilgrims to Sabarimala. The chain the pilgrims wear comes from the Rudraksha chain of the Shaivites. The strict fasting, penance and continence is taken out of the beliefs of the Vaishnavites. The offering of tobacco to Kaduthaswamy can be considered to be taken from the Shaktists.[citation needed]

Pilgrimage



A sign-board that indicates the direction to Sabarimala. The multilingual board is written in Hindi, Malayalam, Tamil, Kannada, Telugu and English (in that order, from top to bottom)

Crowd management of pilgrims



The devotees are expected to follow a Vratam (41-day austerity period) prior to the pilgrimage.[30][31][32] This begins with wearing of a special Mala (a chain made of Rudraksha or Tulasi beads is commonly used, though still other types of chains are available.). During the 41 days of Vratam, the devotee who has taken the vow, is required to strictly follow the rules that include follow only a lacto-vegetarian diet (In India, vegetarianism is synonymous with lacto-vegetarianism), follow celibacy, follow teetotalism, not use any profanity and have to control the anger, allow the hair and nails to grow without cutting.[32] They must try their maximum to help others, and see everything around them as lord Ayyappa. They are expected to bath twice in a day and visit the local temples regularly and only wear plain black or blue coloured traditional clothing.[citation needed]

Many Hindu pilgrims also visit a mosque in Erumely dedicated to Vavar, a Muslim saint who according to tradition was devotee of Lord Ayyappan.[33]

Millions of devotees still follow the traditional mountainous forest path (approximately 61 km) from Erumely, 12.8 km from Vandiperiyar and 8 km from Chalakayam, believed to be taken by Ayyappa himself. The Erumely route starts from Erumely to Aludha river, then crosses the Aludha mountain to reach Karivilam thodu. Now comes the sacred Karimala crossing, from there to Cheriyanavattom, Valliyanavattom and finally Pamba River. Then they have to climb Neelimala and enter into the Ganesha-Bettam, Shree Rama-Betta Padam. Then comes the Aranmula kottaram, which is one of the stops of holy journey Thiruvabharana Ghoshayathra (the grand procession of the divine jewellery).[citation needed]

These days people use vehicles to reach the Pamba River by an alternate route. From Pamba, all the pilgrims begin trekking the steep mountain path of Neeli Mala to SabariMala. This route is now highly developed, with emergency shops and medical aid by the sides, and supporting aid is provided to the pilgrims while climbing the steep slope, which used to be a mere trail through dense jungle. The elderly pilgrims are lifted by men on bamboo chairs till the top, on being paid.[citation needed]

Women

Temple management puts religious restrictions against entry of women of age 10 to 50. This is based on tradition of the temple to respect the celibate nature of the deity, similar restrictions are present against entry of men in other Hindu temples such as the Pushkar Brahma Temple,[34][35][36] and the Kamakhya Temple in Visakhapatnam.[37]

According to the Memoir of the Survey of the Travancore and Cochin States, published in two volumes by the Madras government in the 19th century, women of menstruating age were denied entry into the Sabarimala temple two centuries ago. Though the authors, lieutenants of the Madras Infantry, completed the survey by the end of the year 1820 after nearly five years of research, it was published in two volumes only in 1893 and 1901. "Old women and young girls may approach the temple, but those who have attained the age of puberty and to a certain time of life are forbidden to approach as all sexual intercourse in that vicinity is averse to this deity (Lord Ayyappa)," the report said [38] Up to 1991, women visited the temple even though in small numbers. Women pilgrims below the age of 50 would visit the temple to conduct the first rice-feeding ceremony of their children (Choroону) in the temple premises.[39]

In 1991, Justices K. Paripoornan and K. Balanarayana Marar of the Kerala High Court, in their ruling against the Travancore Devaswom Board, restricted the entry of women between ages 10 and 50 from offering worship at the temple, stating that such a restriction was in accordance with the usage prevalent from time immemorial.[22] In addition, the judges directed the Government of Kerala, to use the police force to ensure that restriction was complied with.[22] High court also stated that "since there is no restriction between one section and another section or between one class and another class among the Hindus in the matter of entry to a temple (Sabarimala) whereas the prohibition is only in respect of women of a particular age group and not women as a class." [8]

On 28 September 2018, the Supreme Court of India, in a 4-1 majority decision (4 men and 1 women judicial panel), overturned the ban on the entry of women.[40][41] The Chief Justice, Dipak Misra, stated that the selective ban on women was not an "essential part" of

Hinduism, and instead a form of "religious patriarchy".[40] Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud stated that the ban "stigmatises" and "stereotypes" women, while "placing the burden of men's celibacy" on them.[40][42] The lone women judge, Indu Malhotra noted in her dissenting judgement that "what constitutes an essential religious practice is for the religious community to decide" and not a matter that should be decided by the courts. She added that "notions of rationality cannot be invoked in matters of religion by courts".[40][43][44]

This led to protests at Nilakkal and Pamba base camps on 17 October 2018, when the temple was opened for the first time after the Supreme Court verdict. Protesters assaulted women journalists, stole their camera equipment, and damaged a vehicle. The police were also attacked. A number of women were among the protesters, checking cars to see if they contained women of menstruating age and helping with the road blocks.[45][46] There were also reports of police damaging protesters' motor bikes.[47] However Lord Ayyappa devotees in a large scale all over Kerala and also in other southern state of India namely Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, protested against entry of women in 10-50 age group in Sabarimala. large number of people participated in the protest mainly women devotees.[48] On 26 December 2018 Devotees conducted 'Ayyappa Jyothi' lighting diya or lamp all across the state of Kerala, Karnataka covering a distance of about 765 km from 6 pm to 6-30 pm against young women's entry to temple. Thousands joined in the event.[49][50] The protestors were physically attacked in Kannur and the state government filed cases against 1400 unidentified participants.[51][49]

Even other religious groups supported the cause of devotees. Prominent Jain Acharya Yugbhushan Suri Maharaj, also known as Pandit Maharaj, has said that sanctity was a religious issue and that it was connected to fundamental religious rights.[52] Commenting on the Sabarimala temple row, Pandit Maharaj told IndiaToday.in, "Whether it is Sabarimala or Jharkhand's Shikharji, the agitations are for sanctity," adding, "Religion talks about inner belief and sanctity. This should be respected. I am not against the judiciary or the Supreme Court, but they should not overlook the belief of the people." Also, Art of Living founder Ravi Shankar battled for the rules that have been traditionally followed at the sanctum sanctorum of the Ayyappa Temple in Sabarimala.[53]

Two women of menstruating age attempted to enter the temple on 19 October 2018 but were blocked by protesters about 100 m away. After the Thantri threatened to close the sanctum sanctorum if the women attempted to ascend the 18 sacred steps, they turned back.[54][55]

On 2 January 2019 at 3:45 AM, for the first time after the Supreme Court verdict, two women in their early 40s were escorted by police into the Sabarimala temple, allegedly through a back gate meant for staff. The Chief Minister of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan, confirmed their entry. Thereafter, priests closed the temple for one hour to ritually purify it as the 41-days pilgrimage is known as Mandala kalam or the 41-day austerity period/Vratham had not been given a by-pass and the women entered the temple premises violating all those traditions too.[26][30][56][57][58][59]

Administration

Administration and legal binding is managed by Travancore Devaswom Board, an affiliate authority of Government of Kerala. Thazhamon Madom is the traditional priest family who has powers over the religious matters to be decided in Sabarimala Temple. Tantri is the highest priest and is the head of the temple. It's the duty of the family to decide on religious matters relating to Sabarimala shrine. Tantris are to be present in all ceremonial Poojas and functions to be held at temple premises and functions associated with the temple. The installation of idols of the temple was also done by Tantri of this family.

Currently, Kandararu Rajeevararu and Kandararu Mahesh Mohanaru from Thazhamon Madom are the thantris of Sabarimala, taking yearly turns and A K Sudheer Namboodiri is the elected melsanthi of Sabarimala, from November 2019 to November 2020.

Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) has decided to allow more devotees daily to visit the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple as of 1 December 2020. The number of devotees has been increased from the present 1,000 to 2,000 on weekdays and from 2,000 to 3,000 on weekends and holidays.

All necessary precautionary measures have been taken at the shrine premises and base camps adhering to COVID-19 guidelines.[60]

Environmental efforts



An information signage near Nadapanthal, Sabarimala, inviting all to join hands in making Sabarimala free from plastic and other wastes.

The waste disposed by the devotees to Sabarimala is threatening the wildlife of the region[61][62][63] and the evergreen forests.[64] Efforts are on to make Sabarimala free from pollution and waste. High Court of Kerala has directed that 'Irumudikettu' should not contain plastic materials.[65] Projects like "Punyam Poonkavanam" has been initiated under the aegis of governmental departments.[66] Mata Amritanandamayi Math has been regularly contributing to keep Sabarimala and its precincts clean.[67][68] While cleaning Pamba river Sabarimala Sannidhanam clean is their primary objective,[69] the broader vision is to spread the message of greenness and cleanliness beyond Sabarimala.[70]

Some of the salient aspects of "Punyam Poonkavanam" project includes:[71]

Not using soap and oil while bathing in the holy Pamba River. No throwing any material, including clothes in the holy river. To prepare irumudikettu without using any plastic and using only biodegradable materials. To devote at least one hour in cleanliness activities at Sabarimala Sannidhanam, River Pamba and surroundings as part of the pilgrimage.

Transport



Doli service in Sabarimala

The nearest airports are Thiruvananthapuram International Airport (170 kilometres (110 mi)) and Cochin International Airport (160 kilometres (99 mi)). A heliport is situated in Perunad about (40 kilometres (25 mi)) from Pamba, which is also known as Sabarimala helipad. Tiruvalla (87 kilometres (54 mi) Chengannur (82 kilometres (51 mi)), Kottayam (92 kilometres (57 mi)), Kayamkulam Junction (102 kilometres (63 mi)), Sasthamkotta (100 kilometres (62 mi)), Punalur (100 kilometres (62 mi)) and Kollam Junction (129 kilometres (80 mi)) are some of the closest accessible railway stations from Sabarimala.

The main trunk road of about 70 kilometres (43 mi) to Sabarimala is Pathanamthitta-Pamba, which passes through Mannarakulanji, Vadasserikara, Perunad, Lahai & Nilakkal. Kerala State Road Transport Corporation operates regular daily bus services from Pandalam, Pathanamthitta, Kottayam, Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam and Kumili. Direct Bus services to Pathanamthitta, Erumeli and Pamba are operated from Chengannur railway station and Kottayam railway station.

Ref: sabarimala.kerala.gov.in

About Sabarimala



Sabarimala Sree Dharma Sastha Temple, dedicated to Lord Ayyappa, is the most famous and prominent among all the Sastha temples in Kerala.

The temple is situated on a hilltop (about 3000 feet above sea level) named Sabarimala in Pathanamthitta district, which is unique. The temple is open to people belonging to all religions. There is a place near the temple; east of Sannidhanam (the abode of Lord Ayyappa), dedicated to Vavar (a close friend of Lord Ayyappa) which is called Vavaru Nada, an epitome of religious harmony. Another unique aspect of this temple is that it is not open throughout the year. It is open for worship only during the days of Mandala Pooja, Makaravilakku, Vishu and also during the first day of every Malayalam month.

It is said that the pilgrims have to observe celibacy for 41 days before going to Sabarimala. Pilgrims take the traditional forest routes as well as the one from Pamba which is less physically challenging to reach the temple.

About Lord Ayyappa: Lord Ayyappa- Birth and History

The members of Pandya dynasty ousted by Thirumala Naicker the ruler of the erstwhile Pandya Empire spanning Madurai, Tirunelveli and Ramanathapuram lived in places like Valliyur, Tenkasi, Shengottah, Achankovil and Sivagiri. They had also established their supremacy in parts of Travancore, and some of them belonging to Chempazhanattu Kovil in Sivagiri were given the right to rule the country of Pandalam by the King of Travancore, some eight hundred years ago. King Rajashekara, the foster-father of Lord Ayyappa belonged to this dynasty.

A just and precocious sovereign King Rajashekara was held by his subjects in high esteem. Under him, the region was witnessing a golden age. But the king had one sorrow – he was childless and thus had no heir to inherit his throne. Both the hapless king and his queen prayed ceaselessly to Lord Shiva for a child.

Around the same time, a demon by the name of Mahishasura undertook severe penance (tapas) and consequently Lord Brahma was forced to grant his wish that nobody on earth could annihilate him. Emboldened by Brahma's boon, Mahishasura commenced systematic destruction of people and pulverised tribes and communities. Terrorized and fearing his wrath, people fled to distant lands. Realising that only a superhuman power could exterminate the wayward Mahishasura, the devas appealed to Goddess Durga, who killed him in a bloody battle.

Determined to avenge her slain brother, Mahishi, the sister of Mahishasura secured a boon from Lord Brahma that no being except the offspring of Vishnu (Hari) & Shiva (Haran) could slay her. In due course of time, Mahishi went to Devaloka and began harassing the Devas who in turn implored Lord Vishnu to intervene. As the boon was that nobody except the son of Lord Shiva & Vishnu could kill Mahishi, Lord Vishnu assumed the female persona of Mohini who helped the devas prize Amrit away from the asuras; it was decided that the male child born out of the union of Mohini and Lord Shiva would be placed under the care of Lord Shiva's childless devotee, King Rajashekhara of Pandalam.

On one of his hunting trips to the forests near River Pampa, as King Rajashekara reclined on the banks of river mulling over the natural beauty of the surroundings and waterfalls, he heard an infant's wails from the forest. Astounded, he followed the sounds and came upon a beautiful child furiously kicking its feet and arms. The king stood there, perplexed – he longed to take the child home to his palace.

Whilst King Rajashekhara beheld the divine child, a sadhu appeared from nowhere and instructed him to take the infant to his palace. Also the mendicant assured him that the child would mitigate his dynasty's sufferings and that when the boy turned twelve, Rajashekhara would be aware of his divinity. As the child was wearing a gold chain, the sadhu directed the King to name him 'Manikandan' – one with a golden neck.

Ecstatic, Rajashekhara took Manikandan home and narrated the happenings to his queen. They both felt that they had been blessed by Lord Shiva himself. All except the Diwan who had entertained hopes of becoming king after Rajashekhara, dejected in the royal couple's happiness.

As a child, Manikandan was very intelligent and precocious. He excelled in martial arts and shastras and surprised his guru with his brilliance and superhuman talents. Peace and prosperity reigned in Pandalam. Eventually, Ayyappan's guru concluded that the boy was no ordinary mortal but a divine being. Upon completing his studies, Manikandan went up to his teacher to offer guru dakshina and seek his blessings in turn.

As he approached his spiritual master for ashirvadam (blessing), the guru explained to Manikandan what he had already surmised about him, that he was a divine power destined for superhuman glory. The guru then beseeched him to bestow vision and speech upon his son who was blind and dumb. Manikandan placed his hands on the guru's son and the boy immediately gained eyesight and speech. Requesting that this miracle be revealed to none, Manikandan returned to the royal quarters.

Meanwhile, the Queen had given birth to a male child who was named Raja Rajan. Sensing that these miraculous turn of events were somehow inextricably linked to Manikandan, Rajasekara, decided to crown him King; he obviously considered Lord Ayyappan his eldest son. Everybody with the exception of the King's Diwan got dejected. This wily minister, who secretly nursed kingly ambitions, hated Manikandan and devised manifold plots, including poisoning of food to exterminate the divine avatar. Manikandan had a few narrow escapes, yet his body bore an injury that none could cure. Finally, Lord Shiva himself in the garb of a healer cured the young boy.

His plans foiled, the Diwan told the Queen that it was highly improper for Manikandan to succeed Rajasekara, as her own son was alive. Since Arthasastra justifies any misdeed with a noble end, he instigated her to feign illness; he assured the Queen that he would make his physician proclaim that she could be cured only by the application of tigress' milk. Manikandan would be impelled to go to the forest where he would fall prey to wild animals, or even if he returned home without accomplishing the task, Rajasekara's love for him would be the same as before. Blinded by her devotion to her own son, the Queen vowed to help the Diwan and pretended as though she were suffering from a terrible headache. The King grew alarmed and summoned his physicians who were unable to revive the seemingly ailing Queen. Eventually the Diwan's accomplice declared that she would be cured of the malady only if the milk of a lactating tigress were made available. Rajasekara proclaimed that he would hand over half his kingdom to anybody who could cure the hapless Queen.

The team of soldiers sent by Rajasekara with the sole purpose of getting the milk returned empty-handed. Manikandan offered to help, but the King would not heed his pleas to go to the forest, citing the boy's tender age and impending coronation as reasons. Unperturbed, Manikandan requested his father to do him a favour. Rajasekara, ever the indulgent parent, relented immediately; the boy seizing the opportunity pressed him to let him collect the milk. Manikandan stalled Rajasekara's efforts to organise a band of brave men to accompany him into the forest; he argued that the tigress would leave silently upon seeing the crowd of soldiers. Reluctantly Rajasekara bid farewell to his favourite son and made him take food stocks and three-eyed coconuts, in honour of Lord Shiva.

The Panchabuthas of Lord Shiva closely followed Manikandan as he entered the forest. But on the way, he chanced to witness the atrocities of the demoness Mahishi in Devaloka. His sense of justice outraged, Manikandan hurled Mahishi onto the earth below; she fell on the banks of the Azhutha River. A bloody battle soon ensued and at the end, Manikandan mounted Mahishi's chest and commenced a violent dance that reverberated within the earth and the Devaloka. Even the Devas were frightened. Mahishi realised that the divine being on her was the son of Hari and Haran, chastened, she prostrated before the young boy and died.

This dance was witnessed by Lord Shiva and Mahavishnu from a place called Kalakatti (It is said that Leela, daughter of Kavalan, a Karamban, with a face of Mahishi and freed herself from the curse and obtained Moksha by the grace of Shri Dharma Sastha, which is described in Sabarimala Temple as Malikapurathu Amma, by which name she has a temple there)

Following his confrontation with Mahishi, Manikandan entered the forest for tigress' milk. He had a darshan of Lord Shiva who informed him that even though he had fulfilled the divine plan, he still had one major task to accomplish. Manikandan was reminded about his grief-stricken father and ailing mother; also he was assured of Lord Indran's assistance in obtaining the much prized tigress' milk. Manikandan made his way to the Royal palace on Lord Devendran, disguised as a tiger; they were accompanied by female devas in the guise of tigresses and male devas as tigers.

The people of Pandalam panicked upon seeing the boy and the tigers and hurriedly sought shelter. Soon after, the Sanyasi, who had first materialised before Rajasekara in the forest, when he heard a child's wails appeared again and revealed Manikandan's true identity to the wonder-struck Sovereign. The King grew silent and pensive, as Manikandan approached the palace gates with the tigers. The boy descended from the tiger's back and informed the solemn King that he could get the milk from the tigresses and cure the Queen of the mysterious ailment. Unable to contain himself any longer, Rajasekara fell at the lad's feet and begged for forgiveness, he had finally seen through his Queen's pretence; her malady had ceased the moment Manikandan had left for the forest. On the day he returned from the forest, Manikandan turned twelve years old.

King Rajasekara decided to punish his Diwan as the latter was responsible for his son's exile into the forest. Manikandan, however, advised restraint; he held that all had unfolded in accordance with the divine order, through the will of God. Also he reminded his father that as he had accomplished the task for which he had created himself, he would return to Devaloka without fail. Before his departure, the lad told the King that he, as he was pleased by the latter's unflinching faith and devotion, would grant him whatever boon Rajasekara requested for. Immediately, the King Rajasekara told him that they wanted to construct a temple in his memory and beseeched him to suggest a suitable place for the temple. Manikandan aimed an arrow which fell at a place called sabari, where in Sri Rama's era a Sanyasini called Sabari observed Dhavam. Lord Manikandan told the King to build the temple in that place and then he disappeared.

Later, acting upon the advice of Saint Agastya, King Rajasekara laid the foundation stone of the temple at Sabarimala. Lord Manikandan, had stated emphatically that he would grace only those devotees who offer Darshan after observing forty-one days' penance or vrtha that involves strict abstinence from family desires and tastes; the devotees are expected to adhere to a way of life akin to that of a brahmachari, constantly reflecting on the goodness of life. Whilst they make their way up the steep slopes of Sabarimala, they adorn themselves with three-eyed coconut and foodstuff/Aantha Garland in their heads, as the Bhagwan did when he went to the forest to fetch tigress milk, and bathed in River Pampa raising slogans of Saranam and climb the eighteen stairs.

King Rajasekara, in due course of time completed the construction of the shrine and the sacred eighteen stairs leading to the temple complex. As the King mulled over the seemingly perplexing task of placing Dharmasastha's idol in the temple for darshan, he was reminded of the words of the Lord himself - the River Pampa is a holy river as River Ganga, Sabarimala is as holy as Kasi - Dharmasastha sent Parasuraman, who resurrected the land of Kerala from the bottom of the ocean, to Sabarimala; it was he who carved the figure of Lord Ayyappa and installed it on the day of Makar Sankranti.

Every year, millions converge upon Sabarimala irrespective of caste or creed, with garlands and irumudis, chant paeans to Lord Ayyappa, bathe in holy river Pampa, climb up the eighteen stairs, hoping to catch a glimpse of Lord Ayyappa, the Dharmasastha.

Upa Devathas

Nagarajav : The deity of Nagarajav is placed adjacent to the sreekovil (sanctum sanctorum) of Lord Ayyappa. Pilgrims after the Darshan of Lord Ayyappa and Kannimoola Ganapathi, make their darshan and give offerings to Nagarajav.

Vavarunada : Vavar (pronounced Vaa-var), also known as Vavaruswami was a Muslim saint who became a devotee of Lord Ayyappa. There is a shrine dedicated to Vavaruswami at Sabarimala, as well as Vavaruswami's mosque at Erumeli next to Erumeli Sastha temple. The devotion of Vavaruswami to Ayyappan and the significance that the mosque at Erumeli has during the Sabarimala pilgrim season highlights the communal harmony in Kerala. The devotion of Vavaruswami also highlights the relevance of Ayyappa devotion for members of all faiths, and the equality shown to all; whether they are Muslims, Hindus or Christians.

Malikapurathamma : Malikapurathamma is the most important upadevatha in Sabarimala. There are two beliefs on Malikapurathamma, that he is the demon that fought with Sri Ayyappan as Mahishi. Once the demon was defeated, a beautiful lady emerged from the body and wished to remain with Sri Ayyappa. Another belief is that the daughter of Sri Ayyappa's guru became a Sanyasini and desired to remain with Sri Ayyappa. As per Tantric view, pilgrims have to worship Malikappuram as 'Adiparasakthi'. Main offerings to Malikappurathamma are turmeric powder, (manjal podi), saffron powder, (kumkumam podi), jhagri (sharkara), honey (then), plantain (kadali pazham), and red silk.

Karuppu Swami & Karuppai Amma: The temple of Karuppu Swamy is located on the right side of the Pathinettam Padi or the eighteen holy steps. The temple of Karuppu Swami also includes the murti of Karuppai Amma. They both were people from the forest who helped Lord Ayyappa in his divine mission and are believed to have divine power.

Valiya Kadutha Swami : The small shrine of Valiya Kadutha is located on the left side of holy steps. Valiya Kadutha is also an attendant of Lord Ayyappa.

Mel Ganapathi: Mel Ganapathi prathishta is adjacent to the sreekovil (sanctum sanctorum) of the Sannidhanam. Devotees offer part of the broken ghee coconut (ney thenga) to Sri Ganapathi in the fireplace (azhi). Ganapathi homam is the main offering.

Pooja timing

Pilgrim Season – Mandala-Makaravilakku Mahotsavam	
Pooja	Time (IST)
Morning	
Opening of sanctum sanctorum, Nirmalyam Abhishekam	3:00 AM
Ganapati Homam	3:30 AM
Neyyabhishekam	From 3:30 to 7:00 AM
Usha Pooja	From 7:30 AM
Neyyabhishekam	From 8:30 – 11:00 AM
Neyyabhishekam/ Using Ghee deposited in 'Ney thoni'	11:10 AM
Ashtabhishekham (15 nos)	From 11:00 to 11:30 AM
Ucha Pooja	12:30 PM
Closing of sanctum sanctorum	1:00 PM
Evening	
Opening of sanctum sanctorum	3:00 PM
Deeparadhana	6:30 PM
Pushpabhishekam	From 7:00 to 9:30 PM
Athazha Pooja	From 9:30 PM
Harivarasanam/ Closing of sanctum sanctorum	11:00 PM

Special poojas

Neyyabhishekam:

Neyyabhishekam is the most important offering to Lord Ayyappa. The ghee filled coconut is used to perform this ritual. The ritual starts at 4 AM and continue till Ucha Pooja (1 PM). After performing the darshan of Lord Ayyappa and upa-prathistas, groups of Ayyappa pilgrims will make a viri (a sheet spread on the ground) under the guidance of guru swamy (the senior most pilgrim). They collect all ghee filled coconut and arrange it on the viri.

After taking bath at Bhasmakkulam (pond behind the sannidhanam) the team leader, usually a guru swamy will break all ghee-filled coconuts and collect the ghee in a vessel to offer it at the sree kovil (sanctum sanctorum).

The priest after performing the Neyyabhishekam will return a portion of the ghee back to the devotee. The ghee obtained from the sree kovil is taken back as a divine prasadam. For

devotees who don't bring ghee-filled coconut, Devaswom board has arranged a facility to get adiyashistam neyyu.

The ghee symbolises the human soul and through the abhishekam of the ghee on Lord Ayyappa the soul merges with the Supreme Being. The jeevatma is ghee and the paramatma is Lord Ayyappa.

Once the ghee is removed from the coconut, then the coconut symbolises jadam or dead body. This is the reason why the coconut is then offered in the huge aazhi or fire-place in front of the temple.

Padi Pooja:

Padi Pooja is the pooja of the 18 holy steps 'pathinettampadi', held on select days after the floral bathing of the idol called 'pushpabhishekam'. The pooja is conducted in evenings and is performed by the tantri, in the presence of the melsanthi (priest). The hour-long ritual by decorating the Holy Steps with flowers and silk cloths after lighting traditional lamps on each step, concludes by performing 'aarti' by the tantri.

Udayasthamana Pooja :

'Udayasthamana' literally means from sunrise to sunset. Hence, it implies worship from sunrise to sunset. Udayasthamana pooja is conducted from dawn to dusk (from Nirmalyam to Athazha pooja). In addition to the nithya pooja, special poojas with Archanas and Abhishekams are conducted to obtain the blessings of the Bhagavan (presiding deity) which enables to fulfil the wishes of the devotees. Out of the total 18 poojas, 15 are done before noon and there are 45 kalasabhishekam.

Kalasams :

Sahasrakalasam:

Sahasra Kalasam is an offering to Hariharaputhra (Sri Dharmasastha) as per the Tantric Veda and Agama Shastras with a view to seek blessings for the happiness of the mankind. It is the noble effort to invoke all the holy spirits utilising all that is sacred in the form of incense, the precious and semiprecious stone, the seven seas, and the sacred rivers into the holy kalasam (sacred pot) of gold, silver, copper etc.

Ulsavabali:

The rituals of Ulsava Bali begin with the sounding of Paani. Ulsava Bali is dedicated to the Bhoothaganams (associates of the presiding deity) and Paani is meant to invite the Bhoothaganams. Then begins the sprinkling of cooked raw rice (Ulsava Bali Thooval) to cover the balikallu of the Bhoothaganams around the Naalambalam and Balikkalpura by the temple tantri. When the sprinkling of the cooked rice over the Saptha Maathrukkal is completed, the Thidambu of the presiding deity is taken out of the sanctum sanctorum to enable the devotees to offer prayers. Ulsava Bali is held as part of the annual festival at the Lord Ayyappa Temple.

Pushpabhishekam :

Pushpabhishekam is the showering of flowers on Lord Ayyappa at Sabarimala. The flowers and leaves that are used in Pushpabhishekam ritual are Tamara (lotus), Jamanthi (chrysanthemum) Arali, Tulsi (basel), Mulla (jasmine) and Kuvalam (bilva leaves). A devotee who wishes to perform Pushpabhishekam at Sabarimala has to book in advance. The cost of performing the Pushpabhishekam is Rs.10,000/-

Ashtabhishekam :

Ashtabhishekam is one of the important offerings to Lord Ayyappa at Sabarimala. The eight items used for Ashtabhishekam at Sabarimala are :

- Vibhuti
- Milk
- Honey
- Panchamrutham
- Tender coconut water
- Sandalwood or Chandanam
- Rosewater or Panineer
- Water

(Please note that Ashtabhishekam offered in Hindu Religion varies from temple to temple)

Kalabhabhishekam :

Kalabhabhishekam is a very important special pooja usually performed for the strengthening of the chaithanya of the deity. As part of kalabhabhishekam, the tantr performs the Kalabhakalasa pooja at the Nalambalam in the presence of melsanthi.

Kalabhakalasaabhishekam, marking the conclusion of the ritual by pouring the sandalwood paste on the idol of Lord Ayyappa, is performed during the Ucha pooja by the tantr after the procession carrying the golden urn having sandal paste for the Kalabhabhishekam around the sree kovil.

Laksharchana :

ARCHANA means 'chanting and glorifying the Divine name'. LAK means 100,000. Therefore, LAKSHARCHANA is the name and practice of repeating in a group, the name of the Lord in the form of a Mantra.

Later, the tantr, assisted by melsanthi and some other priests performs Laksharchana at the Sannidhanam. The 'Brahma Kalasam' of the laksharchana is taken in procession to the sanctum sanctorum for 'abhishekam', prior to the 'uchapuja'.

Offering rates

Sl. No	Offerings	Amount in Rs.	
1	Usha Pooja	1000.00	
2	Ucha Pooja	2500.00	
3	Nithya Pooja	3000.00	
4	Aravana	80.00	
5	Appam	40.00	
6	Ganapathi Homam	300.00	
7	Bhagavathi Seva	2000.00	
8	Pushpabhishekam	10000.00	
9	Kalabhabhishekam	10000.00	
10	Ashtabhishekam	5000.00	
11	Laksharchana	10000.00	Article should be produced by the pilgrim
12	Sahasra Kalasam	50000.00	Do
13	Padi Pooja	75000.00	
14	Udayasthamana Pooja	40000.00	
15	Ulsavabali	30000.00	Article should be produced by the pilgrim
16	Muzhukkappu	750.00	
17	Sahasra Namarchana	50.00	
18	Ashtothararchana	30.00	
19	Thulabharam	500.00	
20	Neyyabhishekam	10.00	
21	Vibhoothi Prasadam	25.00	
22	Vella Nivedyam 200ml	20.00	
23	Sarkkara Payasam 200 ml	20.00	
24	Panchamritham 100 ml	100.00	
25	Panchamritham 500ml Abhishekam	100.00	

26	Abhishekam Neyy 100 ml	100.00
27	Swayamvararchana	50.00
28	Navagraha Pooja	250.00
29	Otta Graha Pooja	50.00
30	Valsan Nivedyam	50.00
31	Gold Ornaments Pooja	100.00
32	Ayyappa Chakram	200.00
33	Mala/Vadi Pooja /	20.00
34	Nelppara	200.00
35	Manjalppara	300.00
36	Navagraha Neyy Vilakku	100.00
37	Vidyarambham	101.00
38	Manjal Kumkum sale	40.00
39	Malar Nivedvam	20.00
40	Adima	250.00
41	Thanka Anki Charth	10000.00
42	Silver Anki Charth	5000.00
43	Choroonu	250.00
44	Namakaramam	100.00
45	Poojicha Mani Big	100.00
46	Poojicha Mani Small	50.00
47	Neeranjnam	100.00
48	Udayada Charth	25.00
49	Udayada Nadakku Vayppu	25.00
50	Manjal Kumkumabhishekam	40.00
51	Nagar Pooja	50.00
52	Vara Nivedyam	20.00
53	Sathrupushpanjali	500.00
54	Udayada Charth	25.00

54	Hariharasooktha Slokarchana	500.00
55	Sathrusookthanjali	500.00
56	Neyy Vilakku	25.00
57	Pushapalamkaram	50000.00

Pampa

Sl No.	Offerings	Amount in Rs.
1	Ganapathi Homam	300
2	Charadujapam	15.00
3	Aval Nivedyam	50.00
4	Vadamala	200.00
5	Modakam	50.00
6	Archana	25.00
7	Kettunira	250.00

Rituals

Malayidal: A pilgrimage to Sabarimala is all about the test of senses. Pilgrims are expected to lead a simple pious life known as 'Vrutham' for the successful completion of the pilgrimage.

Ideally, 'Vrutham' starts from the day when the pilgrim adorns a chain (Mala in Malayalam) denoting willingness to undertake austerity. This ritual is known as 'Malayideel' in local parlance.

The devotee may wear a bead chain with the locket of Sree Ayyappan. Once the chain is worn, the devotee has to lead a life free of worldly pleasures.

Vices such as smoking and alcohol use are also a strict no-no. The pilgrim is also required to lead a life of conjugal abstinence.

Religious practices mandate that the Mala should be accepted after prayers from a temple priest or a Guru Swami – a person who has completed 18 Sabarimala pilgrimage.

Alternatively, the Mala may be also worn in the prayer room/place of one's own home.

The Mala may be taken off after the completion of the pilgrimage.

Mandala Vrutham : Mandala Vrutham denotes austerity measures by followers and devotees of Lord Ayyappa for a Mandala or 41 days.

Simple and pious living sans any vices is called for during the 'Vrutham' period. Wearing the Mala denotes the onset of the 'Vrutham'. Devotees consider wearing the Mala on a Saturday or on the day of Uthram, the astral sign considered auspicious. Uthram is the birth star of Sree Ayyappan.

The idea behind the 41-day 'Vrutham' is to develop discipline and healthy practices and make it a habit. It is all about good habit formation through sustained efforts achieved through a combination of self-control and prayers.

Black is the recommended colour for clothes during the 'Vruthum' period as the colour denotes detachment from material things. Cutting hair, shaving off facial hair, and cutting nails are forbidden.

Kettunirakkal : This ritual is the preparation and packing of 'Irumudi kettu' for Sabarimala pilgrimage. It is prepared under the guidance of a guru swamy. Only those who carry the Irumudi kettu on the head would be allowed to climb the 18 sacred steps to the temple, as they are the ones considered to have observed the austerities and thus eligible to climb the holy steps.

Other devotees have to resort to a different passage to reach in front of the sanctum sanctorum for worship.

During the Kettunira, after the initial prayers, the sacred offering of ghee (clarified cow's butter) is filled inside a coconut, the fibrous covering of which is removed.

The draining of the water within the coconut through a small hole on the top and filling it with ghee is a symbolic act. It signifies the draining out of worldly attachments from the mind and filling it with spiritual aspirations. Coconut is called 'thenga' in Malayalam and now the ghee-filled coconut, an offering for Lord Ayyappa, is known as the neyy-thenga.

First, the front compartment of the bag will be filled in with the neyy-thenga and other sacred offerings to Lord Ayyappa and the accompanying deities. The front compartment is now closed by tying it with a string. The filled in front compartment is believed to be vibrant with spiritual power. Then the other compartment is filled with a few coconuts to be broken at various holy spots.

Petta Thullal: Petta Thullal, the ritualistic sacred dance to celebrate the victory of good over evil in the legend of Lord Ayyappa who killed the demon princess Mahishi, which denotes the beginning of the last leg of the annual Sabarimala pilgrimage season.

Traditionally, Petta Thullal is performed first by the Ambalappuzha team.

The team comprising more than 1,000 devotees starts the ritualistic dance after sighting the kite in the skies around noon from the Kochambalam at Petta junction. The team will dance its way into the Nainar mosque across the road to pay obeisance to Lord Ayyappa's trusted lieutenant, Vavar.

They will be formally received by the Erumeli Mahallu Jamaat committee leaders who later would accompany them to the Sree Dharma Sastha Temple (Velliambalam) nearly a kilometre away where the Ambalappuzha team and the Jamaat leaders would be received by the Travancore Devaswom Board officials.

The ceremonial dance by the Alangad team begins in the afternoon after sighting the star in the daylight sky. The two teams after an overnight stay at the Valiambalam would trek to Pampa to participate in the Pampa Sadya and later in the Makaravilakku festival at the Sannidhanam.

Traditional Path: There are several routes to reach Sabarimala including Erumeli route, Vandiperiyar route and the Chalakayam route.

The route via Erumeli is considered the traditional path as it is held that Ayyappan took this route to subdue Mahishi. It is also the toughest of the lot, requiring a trek of about 61 km through forest and hill tracks.

Devotees taking the Erumeli route pass through a series of spots before they reach Sabarimala. The journey starts with offering prayers at the shrines of Dharma Sastha and Vavar Swami at Erumeli.

About 4 km from Erumeli is Perur Thodu, a place where Ayyappa is believed to have rested during his expedition. This place is also important as it marks the start of the ascent/climb to Sabarimala. As a practice, pilgrims give alms seeking asylum in Ayyappa. The forest beyond Perur Thodu is known as 'Poongavanam' meaning 'Ayyappa's garden'.

The next spot in the traditional path is Kaalaketti, about 10 km from Perur Thodu. 'Kaala' in Malayalam means ox and 'ketti' means tying. It is believed that Lord Shiva tied his ox here and witnessed Ayyappa slaying the Mahishi. Pilgrims offer prayers in the shrine here, lighting camphor and breaking coconuts.

About 2 km from Kaalaketti is Azhutha river, a tributary of the river Pampa. Pilgrims make it a point to collect pebbles from the Azhutha river before proceeding on to the steep Azhutha hill. The 2-km steep hilly terrain is considered very tough, making one weep and cry. Kallidumkunnu rests at the summit of Azhutha. At this step pilgrims throw the pebbles down, commemorating the act of flinging down Mahishi's mortal remains.

Route2

Inchipparakota marks the descent of the journey after successfully navigating the uphill terrain. At Inchipparakota, there is a shrine dedicated to Sastha known as Kotayil Sastha, where pilgrims offer their respects. The descent across the slippery path ends at Karimala thodu (canal) flanked by the Azhutha hill on one side and the Karimala hill on the other.

Karimala is the grooming ground of elephants and the pachyderms visit the Karimala canal to drink water. To protect themselves from the chilly weather and animal invasion, pilgrims set up campfires. Karimala is a hill with seven levels and the journey is undertaken in stages. The 5 km ascent is very difficult and devotees take this leg of the journey chanting 'Swamiye Saranam Ayyappa'. The flat terrain on top of the Karimala hill offers scope for rest. The 'Nazhikkinar', well within a well in this place, has fresh spring water, quenching thirst and tiredness after the steep climb. At this spot prayers are offered to various deities including 'Karimalanthan', 'Kochu Kadutha Swami' and Bhagawathi.

Route 3

After an exhausting descent of 5 km covering spots such as Valiyaanavattam and Cheriyaanavattam, one reaches the Pampa river. The significance of Pampa in the Sabarimala pilgrimage also draws from the belief that King Rajasekhara of Pandalam found infant Ayyappa here. Considered as holy as the Ganges, worshippers believe that the water purifies one from curse and evil. The Sannidhanam (the spot of the sanctum sanctorum) is

around 8 km from the Pampa river valley. Neelimala, Appachimedu, Sabareepeedom and Saramkuthi are some of the spots en route.

It is interesting to note that ascent and descents of the journey teach one to recognise that life is all about ups and downs, and one has to brave it all to reach the summit!

Ulsavam: 'Ulsavam' is the annual festival held at Sabarimala temple during the Malayalam month of 'Meenam' or the Tamil month of 'Panguni' (March-April). The temple remains open for a period of 10 days during the 'Ulsavam'.

'Ulsavam' begins with the hoisting of the temple flag, 'Kodiyettam'. Over the course of the next few days, several special poojas including 'Ulsavabali' and 'Sree Bhootha Bali' are conducted. The 9th day of the annual festival marks 'Pallivetta', wherein Sree Ayyappa goes on a ceremonial procession to perform the royal hunt at Saramkuthi. This is followed by the Sabarimala 'Arattu' or holy dip at the Pampa river.

Special poojas to mark 'Panguni Uthiram' draws the annual 'Ulsavam' to a close. 'Uthram' is the birth star of Sree Ayyappan.

How to reach

By Rail:- Pilgrims can reach Kottayam & Chengannur by rail and from there by road to Pampa.

By Air:- Pilgrims can reach Thiruvananthapuram or Kochi by air and from there by rail/road to Pampa.

By Road:- KSRTC has started bus services to Coimbatore, Palani and Thenkasi from Pampa for the convenience of Sabarimala pilgrims. Besides, the Government of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have been given the permission to operate buses to Pampa. A chain service exists between Pampa and Nilackal base camps.

Pilgrim facilities

› Health Care Centres

› Cardiac Centres

› Government Department Services

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Travancore Devaswom Board

Travancore Devaswom Board is an autonomous body constituted under the
Travancore Cochin Hindu Religious Institutions Act XV of 1950



TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD
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Welcome

Travancore Devaswom Board

Travancore Devaswom Board is an autonomous body constituted under the Travancore Cochin Hindu Religious Institutions Act XV of 1950. It is entrusted with the task of administrating 1248 temples in the erstwhile princely state of Travancore comprised in the State of Kerala which were earlier administrated by the ruler of Travancore prior to the integration of the Princely states of Travancore and Cochin in 1949.

The constitution of the Board was based on the Covenant entered in to by the Maharaja of Travancore in May 1949 and concurred and guaranteed by the Government of India.

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Sabarimala helpline

Sabarimala Enquiry: +91 7025800100; sabarimala.pol@kerala.gov.in

Women Cell Pathanamthitta :0468 2325352; showmncelpta.pol@kerala.gov.in

Sabarimala Information (PRO): 04735 202048

Accommodation : 04735 202049

Information Pamba : 04735 203339

Photos

January 2022 photos:



















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തിരക്ക് - (2) മകരവിളക്ക് മഹോത്സവത്തിന് ശബരിമല നട തുറന്നപ്പോൾ ആദ്യ ദിനം ഉച്ചയ്ക്ക് മുമ്പ് സന്നിധാനത്ത് അനുഭവപ്പെട്ട തിരക്ക്.

SABARI 217 (31.12.2021)







മകരവിളക്ക് മഹോത്സവത്തിനായി ശബരിമല ശ്രീ ധർമ്മശാസ്ത ക്ഷേത്ര നട തുറന്ന ശേഷം മേൽശാന്തി എൻ. പരമേശ്വരൻ നമ്പൂതിരി ആഴി തെളിയിക്കുന്നു

SABARI 214 (30.12.2021)















മകരവിളക്ക് മഹോത്സവത്തിന് മുന്നോടിയായി ശബരിമല സന്നിധാനത്തെ ആഴി ശുദ്ധീകരിക്കുന്നു.



മണ്ഡലപൂജയ്ക്ക് സമാപനം കുറിച്ചു കൊണ്ട് നടയടക്കുന്നതിന് മുമ്പ് സന്നിധാനത്ത് ദർശനം കാത്ത് നിൽക്കുന്ന ഭക്തർ



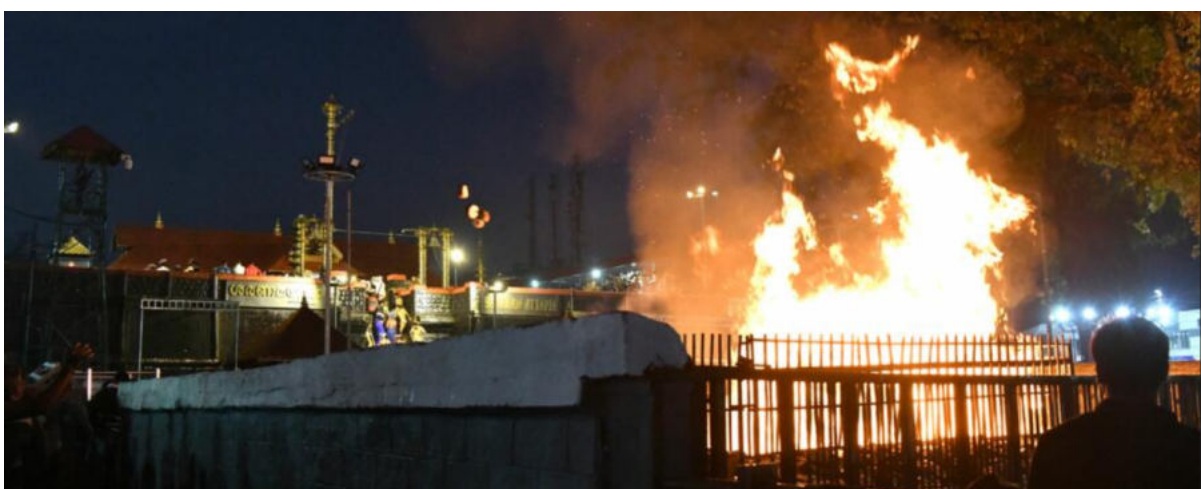


Sabarimala 2019 photos:











Videos

<https://youtu.be/CYS80YQKuug>

<https://youtu.be/AY-3tzdWpWg>

<https://youtu.be/tWsgxcyFFBk>

<https://youtu.be/b7anUXyE--Y>

https://youtu.be/_e5hLBoRBI8

<https://youtu.be/tWsgxcyFFBk>

https://youtu.be/Mu_80nwwnAk

<https://youtu.be/4q78pl9Apf4>

<https://youtu.be/3xfQy-Slv1w>

<https://youtu.be/QmDQh0nYAZo>

<https://youtu.be/CqZZPKZyzB8>

<https://youtu.be/fzR3LmaX3K8>

<https://youtu.be/Osrb2PK5s-s>

<https://youtu.be/Uvn9-22YoU4>

<https://youtu.be/3nj8aqGxJHc>

<https://youtu.be/hYR2L5GEBh0>

<https://youtu.be/AlNmixVREr8>

https://youtu.be/_50alwRQsRA

https://youtu.be/Y_kQ9Kxoi1M

<https://youtu.be/7w1CpdOhOgM>

<https://youtu.be/gRRw-65s4II>

<https://youtu.be/ldZttBP54Ik>

<https://youtu.be/m0cxzpvMa84>

Ref: FaceBook page: Sabarimala Ayyapa Temple:

Photos:









Temple opened for Mandala Pooja Mahotsavam.

Pooja Timings:

Opening of sanctum sanctorum	3.00 AM
Nirmalyam	3:05
Abhishekam	3.15
Ganapati Homam	3:20
Neyyabhishekam	3:30 - 11:00
Usha pooja	7:30
Ucha pooja	12.30 PM
Closing of sanctum sanctorum	1.00

Evening

Opening of sanctum sanctorum	3.00 PM
Deeparadhana	6:30
Pushpabhishekam	7.00
Athazha pooja	9:30
Harivarasanam	10:20
Closing of sanctum sanctorum	10.30 PM









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An injured devotee being taken to the hospital in Pamba, after at least 25 persons were injured following a stampede in Sabarimala temple in Kerala on Sunday. PTI Photo

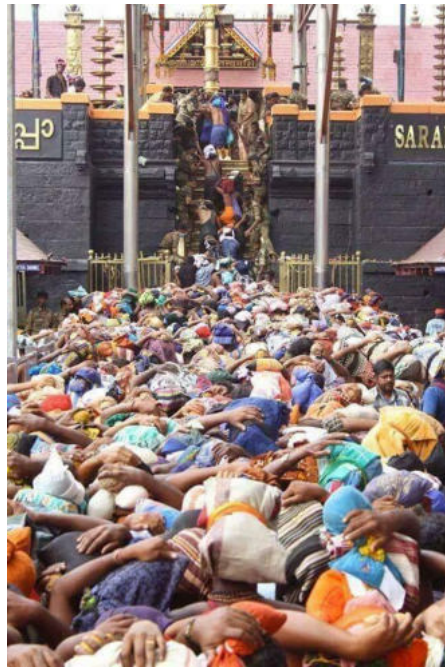
AT LEAST 32 pilgrims were injured, two of them critically, in a stampede at Sabarimala Temple on Sunday evening. The stampede occurred when a rope, which was used as a barricade, snapped in the rush of pilgrims, police said. Some of the pilgrims fell down and were injured in the stampede that followed.

















Chant Sarana Mantra for 41 days from 1st June 2020

Swamiye Saranam Ayyappa

Loka Samastha Sukino Bhuvanthu
I am Sudheer Namboothiri,
Sabarimala Melsanthi

I wanted to share what came in my thought process through Kaliyuga Varadhan Ayyappa Swamy. I am committed with prayers and mantras for the relief from this COVID 19 Globally from Sabarimala Sannidhanam.

I just wanted to share which came in my mind during Prayers with Abathpanthavan Ayyappa Swamy. In this Kaliyuga, Nama Jabam is the only solution. It is well established through the nine lettered word (in Malayalam)

Swamiye Saranam Ayyappa

From the Prathishta day of 1st June 2020, for 41 days, Ayyappa Devotees globally to chant this Sarana Mantram during the prayers - Sandhya time between 6.30pm - 7pm in front of Nila Vilakku.

Chanting of 90 lakhs together on day one, followed by 9 lacs everyday of Sarana Mantra has the power to give the desired results for sure.

Let's pray for all who are involved in this mission of eradicating COVID 19. Request to spread this message to all Ayyappa Devotees around the globe.

സ്വാമിയേ ശരണായ്വപ്പ

ലോകം സമസ്തം സുഖിനാം ഭവന്തു

ഞാൻ ശബരിമല മേൽക്കാൽ സ്വാമി സന്തതിയിൽ

കുലിയുഗവരധനായ സാക്ഷാൽ അയ്യപ്പസ്വാമിയെ അനുഭവിക്കാനും, ഓരോ ഒരു ദൈവത്തിന് സർവ്വതീയായതായുള്ളതും-കഷ്ടതയിൽ പ്രാർത്ഥനയിലായാക്കാൻ സ്വാമി നൽകിയ വരദാനുഭവം. ഈ കപടാഭിമുഖീകരണത്തിൽ നിന്ന് ലോകത്തെ മോചിപ്പിക്കാനുള്ള മുതൽപണയ്ക്കായി ശബരിമല സന്നിധാനത്ത് കഴിയുകയാണ്.

അതിനിടക്ക് ആപൽസാധനമായ പല അയ്യപ്പസ്വാമി മോന്നിപ്പിച്ച കാര്യം ഞാൻ നിങ്ങളോട് പങ്കുവെക്കുകയും, കലികാലത്ത് നാശപാതകങ്ങൾ ഭവിക്കാൻ തുടങ്ങിയപ്പോൾ നിലനിൽക്കുന്ന, അയ്യപ്പ വ്യവസ്ഥാസമുദായം കൈക്കൽ സ്വാമിയെ ശരണായ്വപ്പ എന്ന ബോധക്കണ്ഠിപ്പാണ്.

നാൽപ്പൊന്ന് ദിവസം ലോകത്താകമാനുള്ള അയ്യപ്പ കരൾ, ഈ ശരണ മുതൽപ്പോൾ അയ്യപ്പനാ ഭവിക്കണം പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കണം എന്ന് സ്വാമിയിരിക്കാൻ, സംശയം ഇല്ല.

അയ്യപ്പന്റെ പ്രാർത്ഥനാദിനമായ ജൂൺ 1 ന് വീട്ടിൽ വെച്ച് രാവിലെ 6.30-7pm മിടക്ക് മിമിപ്പിച്ച് നിൽക്കുന്നതിനു മുമ്പിൽ ലോകത്താകമാനം പുരുഷന്മാർക്ക് 90 ലക്ഷക്കൊമ്പും, സ്വാമിയെ ശരണായ്വപ്പ മുതൽ മുഴുവനും, അർപ്പിക്കുന്ന നാൽപ്പത് ദിവസത്തിനുള്ള പുരോഹിതസംഘം മുഖേനയാണ് 9 ലക്ഷക്കൊമ്പും ഈ ഭാരം മുഴുവനും, അയ്യപ്പ കരളുടെ പ്രാർത്ഥനാകർമ്മം വരുത്തുകയും, തീർപ്പും

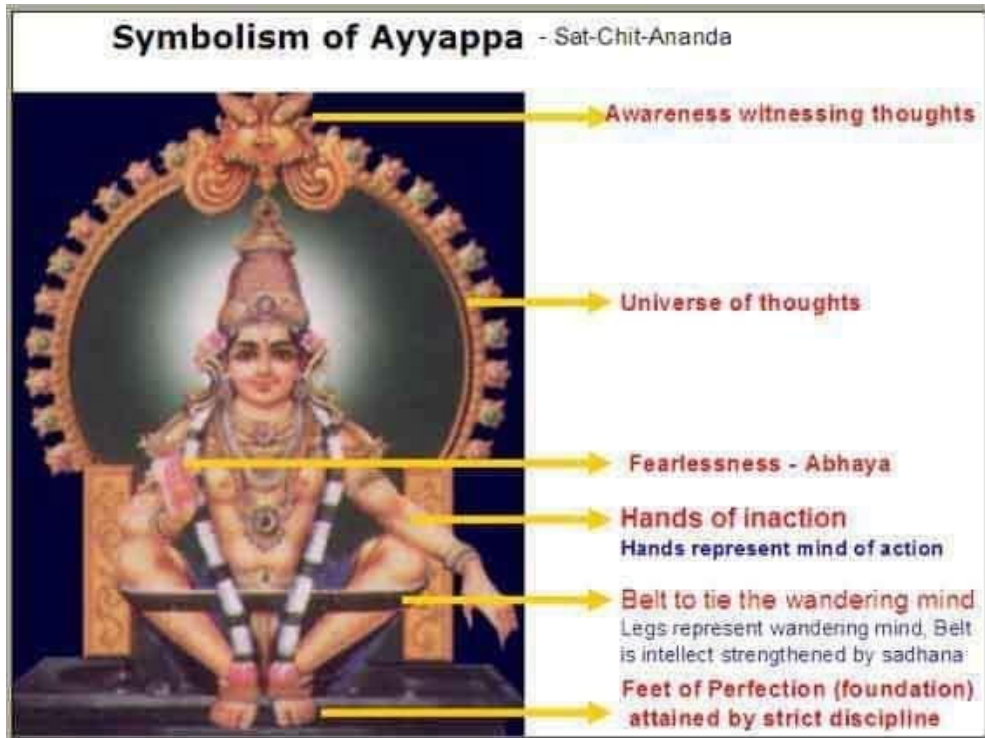
നിങ്ങളുടെ പ്രാർത്ഥനയിൽ കോവിഡ് രോഗം പൊതുവെ ഏറ്റുവാങ്ങും പ്രശ്നവും ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തുക, നൽകാൻ നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ പാലിക്കുക. ഈ സന്ദർഭം ഏറ്റവും അയ്യപ്പകരണമെന്നും, എന്തിനെയും ലോകം സമസ്തം സുഖിനാം ഭവന്തു

BRAHMASREE A.K. SUDHEER NAMBOOTHIRI
SABARIMALA MELSANTHI



Sharing this as directed by Melsanthi
Sri. Ayyappa Dass, National President ABAP.





Facebook.com/Sabarimala.ayya

Distance Chart

From	To	Distance
Erumeli	Pampa	56 Kms
Kottayam	Erumeli	72 Kms
Kottayam	Pampa	128 Kms
Chengannoor	Pampa	93 Kms
Thiruvalla	Pampa	99 kms
Ernakulam	Pampa	200 Kms
Alleppey	Pampa	137 Kms
Punalur	Pampa	105 Kms
Pathanamthitta	Pampa	69 Kms
Pandalam	Pampa	84 kms
TVPM	Pampa	175 Kms
Ernakulam	Erumeli	175 Kms

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CHARTED TRIPS TO SABARIMALA
KSRTC is pleased to operate CHARTED TRIPS from different destinations to PAMBA and back during the Sabarimala Mandala Makrivilakku Festival 2018-19. The devotees can reserve the package in advance
Control Room/Chief Office
0471-2463799, 9447071021
Control Room - PAMBA
0473-5203445

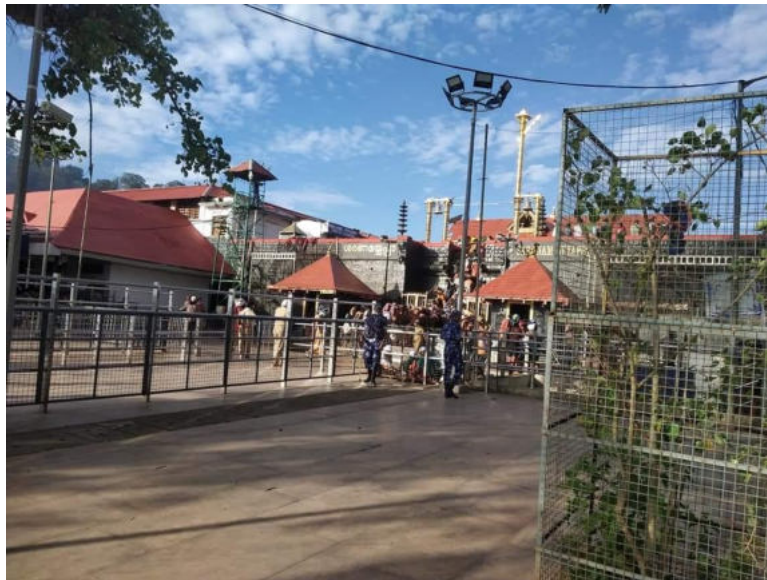
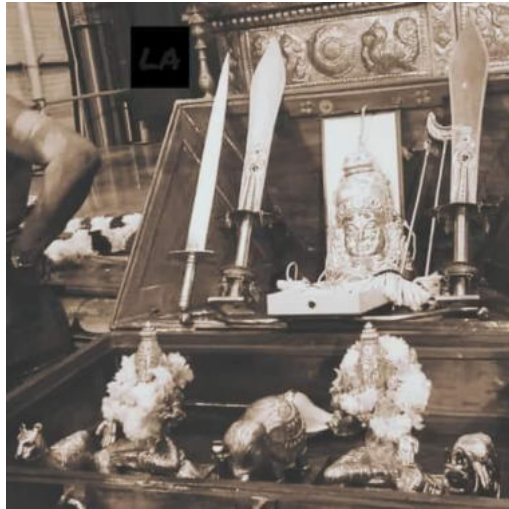
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For Live Sabarimala Updates & News....
Like & Share this Facebook Page

SABARIMALA AYYAPPA TEMPLE
Facebook.com/Sabarimala.ayya

Nearest Railway Stations
Kottayam - (0481) 2563535
Chengannur - (0479) 2452340
Pamba Railway Enquiry Counter - (04735) 203605



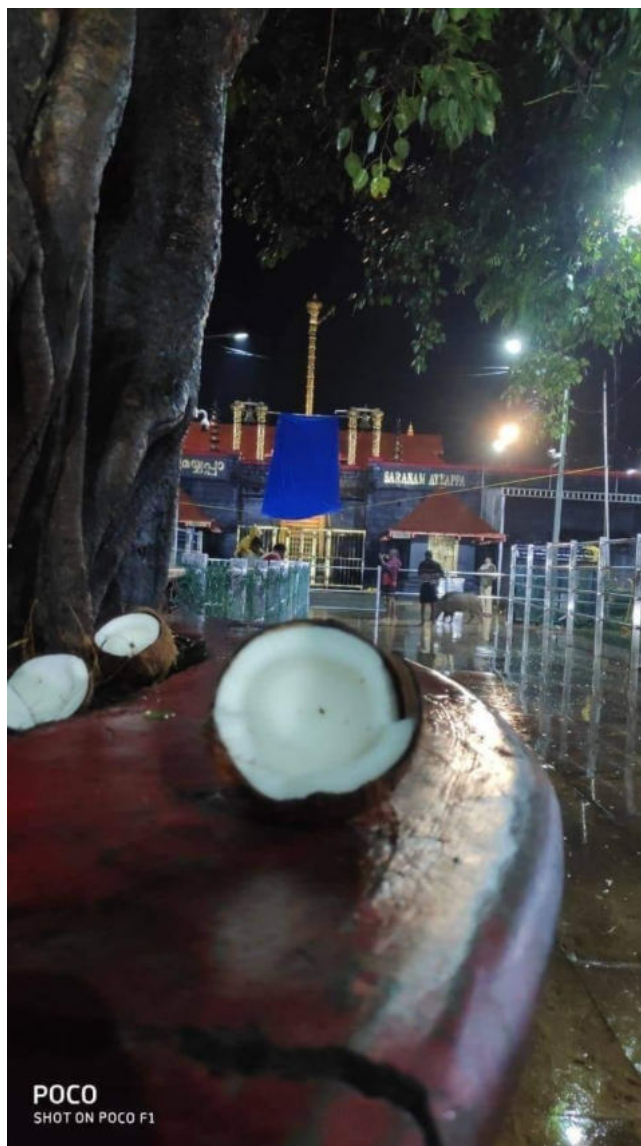




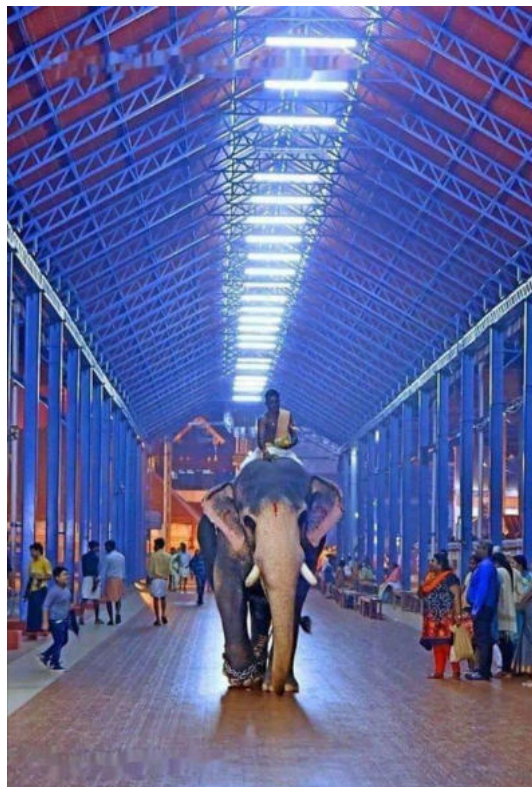


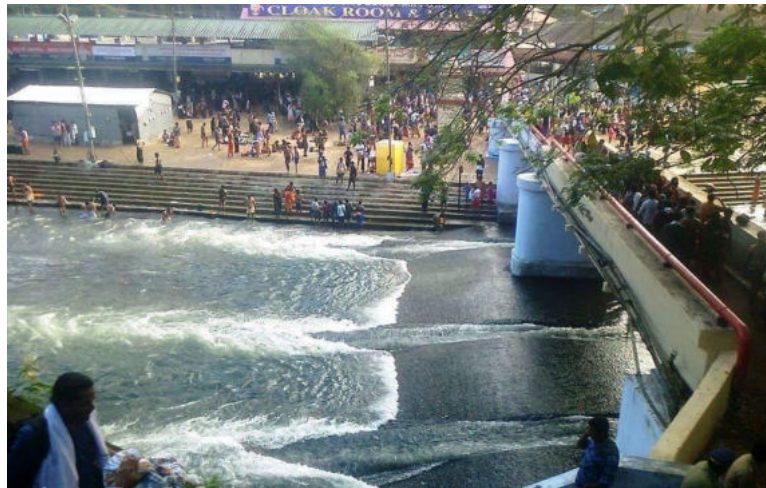
 2020 OPENING & CLOSING OF SABARIMALA TEMPLE 		
Festival / Monthly Pooja	Opening Date	Closing Date
Makaravilakku	30.12.2019	21.01.2020
MakaraJothi	15.01.2020	
Kumbham	13.02.2020	18.02.2020
Meenam	13.03.2020	18.03.2020
Ulsavam	28.03.2020	07.04.2020
Kodiyettam	29.03.2020	—
Arattu	07.04.2020	—
MedaVishu	10.04.2020	18.04.2020
Vishu	14.04.2020	
Edavam	14.05.2020	19.05.2020
Prithisthaday	31.05.2020	01.06.2020
Mithunam	14.06.2020	19.06.2020
Karkkidakam	15.07.2020	20.07.2020
Chingam	16.08.2020	21.08.2020
Onam	29.08.2020	02.09.2020
Kanni	16.09.2020	21.09.2020
Thulam	16.10.2020	21.10.2020
Sri Chithra Atta Thirunal	12.11.2020	13.11.2020
Mandala Pooja	15.11.2020	26.12.2020
Thirunada Opens for Makara Jothi Pooja 30.12.2020		
Next Makara Jothi 14.01.2021		











ശരണം സഖർപ്പയാവി	ശരണം സഖർപ്പയാവി
ധർമ്മ യോഗാക്കൾക്കൊരു സന്നദ്ധതയോടെ Bank Details: Name of Account: SABARIMALA KARMA SAMITHI Account No: A/C No.014805300019067 Bank: DHANLAXMI BANK LTD. Branch: Kaloor, Emakulam, Kochi - 682017 IFSC CODE: DLXB0000148	ധർമ്മ യോഗാക്കൾക്കൊരു സന്നദ്ധതയോടെ FAKE Bank Details: Account number:673190 Bank: SBI Branch: City Branch, TVM IFSC Code: SBIN0070028 Name of Donee: CMDRF PAN detail: AAAGD0584M SWIFT CODE: SBININBBT08

SHATHAM SAMARPAYAMI

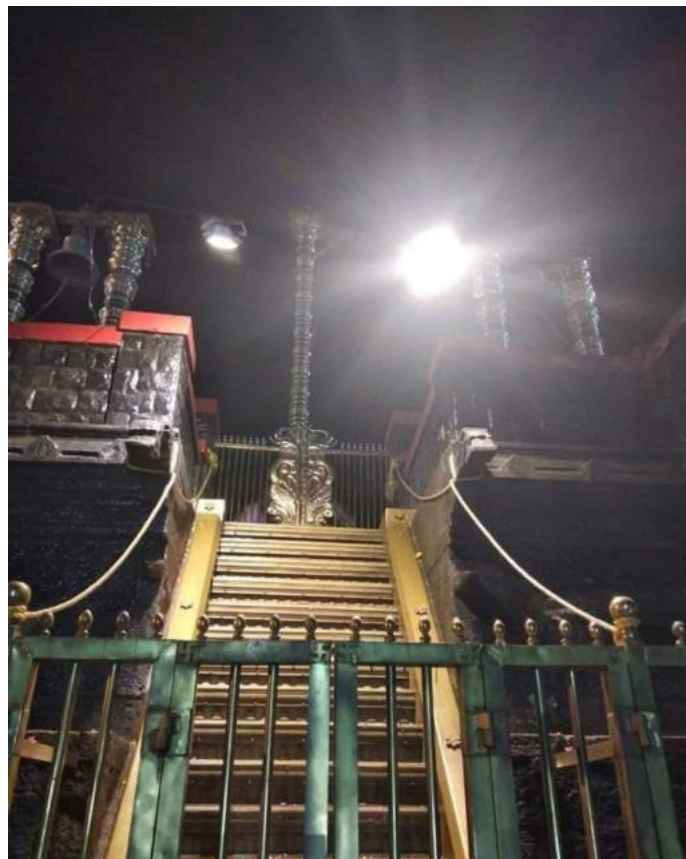
**A helping hand to
our warriors of dharma**

Bank Details:
 Name of Account: SABARIMALA KARMA SAMITHI
 Account No: A/C.No.014805300019067
 Bank: DHANLAXMI BANK LTD.
 Branch: Kaloor, Ernakulam, Kochi - 682017
 IFSC CODE: DLXB0000148

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT**

**SJR KUMAR
9388616117
K P HARIDAS
8848585313**

SABARIMALA KARMASAMITHI







FB videos:

Most popular: <https://fb.watch/aHlcKUAqbP/>

Yesudas: Harivarasanam: <https://fb.watch/aHlftVWtF2/>

Harivarasanam: <https://fb.watch/aHlk4dZen9/>

Sharanam Ayyapa: <https://fb.watch/aHlIR4x9JK/>

Untitled: <https://fb.watch/aHlnOX5IH5/>

Untitled: <https://fb.watch/aHlq9SDgFP/>

Untitled: <https://fb.watch/aHlsr-gB-Z/>

Untitled: <https://fb.watch/aHluZWynnJ/>

Untitled: <https://fb.watch/aHlwUnfE0d/>

Untitled: <https://fb.watch/aHlywfUXcL/>

Untitled: <https://fb.watch/aHIAA7IDvq/>

Untitled: <https://fb.watch/aHIEqDusuA/>

Untitled: <https://fb.watch/aHlGaRilFN/>

Untitled: <https://fb.watch/aHlH-fnzXT/>

Untitled: <https://fb.watch/aHlJHnEK5l/>

Untitled: <https://fb.watch/aHlLam0XDR/>

Untitled: <https://fb.watch/aHlNujapVo/>

Untitled: <https://fb.watch/aHlPgZ23eZ/>

Untitled: https://fb.watch/aHIRX_T68M/

Untitled: <https://fb.watch/aHlTV8sQuu/>

Untitled: <https://fb.watch/aHlVA1fgPE/>

Untitled: <https://fb.watch/aHlYLCxHRw/>

Untitled: <https://fb.watch/aHl-QMuhoQ/>

YouTube videos:

Sabarimala Ayyappa: history and travel guide: <https://youtu.be/gldWvgbx2-c>

Sabarimala Lord Ayyappa temple: <https://youtu.be/HOvVN41aPnc>

Sabarimala temple: <https://youtu.be/Gldi1rTjyok>

Ayyappa devotional song: <https://youtu.be/FJGU9bQecdE>

Ayyappa Tamil devotional: https://youtu.be/dR3kl_iUqrU

Sabarimala temple: <https://youtu.be/Vdg4OkpXCM>

Sabarimala Ayyappa Swamy temple: <https://youtu.be/axxTfHJRuU0>

Makara Jyothi in Sabarimala: <https://youtu.be/lwz9KHDoZu4>

Story of Sabarimala Ayyappa temple: <https://youtu.be/iFqgGfcnfsw>

Makara Vilakku in Sabarimala Temple: <https://youtu.be/gTEDdWKftPs>

Story of Ayyappa Swamy in Sabarimala: <https://youtu.be/gFHkGuVRea8>

Ayyappa swamy temple: Teerthayatra: <https://youtu.be/pnbj17CFGtl>

Sabarimala yatra: devotional: <https://youtu.be/wKPAugCbrXk>

Sabarimala Ayyappa temple: https://youtu.be/_m7OILsieGk

Sabarimala temple: <https://youtu.be/n6vsvok92BI>

Irumudiye: devotional: <https://youtu.be/TF69QwrvTyw>

Sabarimala Ayyappa temple: https://youtu.be/ouTQ2vU_P0g

Sabarimala: <https://youtu.be/OGXyjq914Wo>

Sabarimala yatra: Tamil: <https://youtu.be/Bn3a3Lodol8>

Sabarimala Bhagwan: Hindi: <https://youtu.be/KL4INk1HLiw>

Ayyappa devotional: <https://youtu.be/zu6Cqc-Gz8w>

Ayyappa devotional songs: https://youtu.be/VU2nUwT_XMk

Sabarimala devotional songs: Telugu: <https://youtu.be/AHg3gFsofrw>

Sabarimala Ayyappa: Kannada full movie: <https://youtu.be/8eqWavpUyhc>

Sabarimala Thirunada closing ceremony (2 days ago): <https://youtu.be/2l-XJ1hap9A>

Ayyappa Swamy's real house: <https://youtu.be/XZ0HAF9C9rQ>

Sabarimala Nadai opening : <https://youtu.be/yJxOkVL09tY>

Sabarimala yatra songs: <https://youtu.be/ZX4XBxEyFlg>

Yesudas: Harivarssanam live in Sabarimala: <https://youtu.be/bRWVCTzLlv4>

Sabarimala Swamy Ayyappa: <https://youtu.be/oQ1ICD-EUNU>

Thayambaka kalasamithi at Sabarimala: https://youtu.be/_dyjpxeR1Sc

Sabarimala Swamy Ayyappa: Kannada full movie: <https://youtu.be/vEO8RNKCudc>

Sabarimala Ayyappa: Pamba to Sabarimala journey: <https://youtu.be/naqw9qxqasc>

Kalabham procession on 18-1-2022: <https://youtu.be/uPcQx9wEJic>

Sabarimala 1940: <https://youtu.be/rDXttwj6LD4>

Yesudas: Harivarasanam and other songs: <https://youtu.be/CJiY9GXD3dY>

Yesudas: Ayyappa devotional songs: <https://youtu.be/grpSeX-gLnI>

Yesudas offers musical prayer at Sabarimala: <https://youtu.be/tcg-TcoZYqA>

Yesudas: Kannada Ayyappan full songs: https://youtu.be/P3aCX_4TDqw

Harivarasanam by Legends: <https://youtu.be/nFJfBugS-io>



ॐ स॒ह ना॑ ववतु । स॒ह नो॑ भुनक्तु । स॒ह वी॒र्यं॑ करवावहै । ते॒ज॒स्विना॒वधी॑तमस्तु मा वि॒द्विषा॑वहै ॥ (3)
 ॐ शान्तिः॒ शान्तिः॒ शान्तिः॑ ॥ (3)